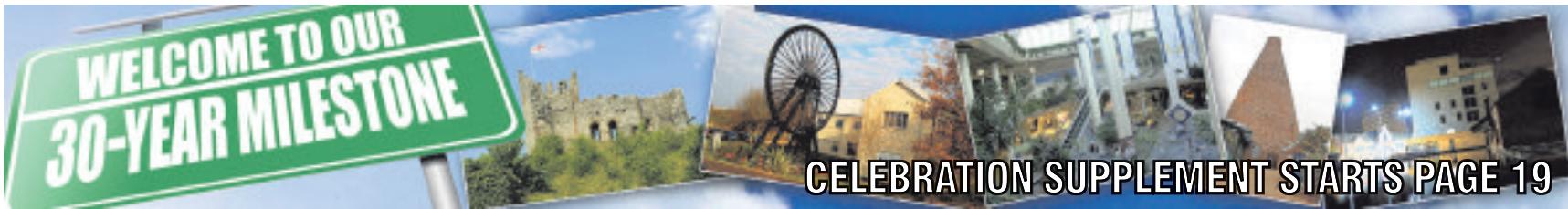




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FIRMS FACE £2m BHS DEBT CRISIS

Report by John Corser

FIRMS in the West Midlands are owed more than £2 million after the collapse of BHS and could be making workers redundant as a result.

More than 60 companies are said to be affected. Halesowen denim jeans and jackets manufacturers Fundamental Fashion is owed a massive £403,000 and ICS Distribution in Smethwick, which is owned £93,000, may have to lay off workers.

Alan Nuttal Partnership, in Dudley, is owed £95,500 for display work; Kidderminster Footwear £72,800; and garden furniture business Mir & Co, in Oldbury, £72,000.

A report by administrators Philip Duffy and Ben Wiles of Duff & Phelps shows that in total £48.54 million is owed to the 1,214 trade and expense creditors that have come forward.

They expect an unsecured creditors to get back just 3p in the pound once £55m has been paid to secured creditors, which includes £35m to Sir Phillip Green's Arcadia Group, the former BHS owner.

Administrators

BHS's 163 shops, including branches at Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Birmingham and Telford, will disappear after administrators failed to find a buyer.

Fundamental Fashions managing director Harvey Gatehouse said he was in negotiations with the administrators to take stock that had been made to BHS orders.

"Losing BHS means we are losing 10 per cent of our annual business. We have been supplying BHS since we started in business in 1998," he said.

The company employs about 20 people at the Alcora Building on Mucklow Hill.

ICS, which operated one of the main warehouses for BHS ladieswear at its six-acre site on Halfords Lane, said potential redundancy letters has been given out to employees.

A spokesman said: "The loss of BHS will have an impact. It has shaved £250,000 off our bottom line. It was one of our biggest customers. We may have to lay off people."

MAYOR GETS READY FOR BLACK COUNTRY RUN



Ready for the Black Country Run – Miss Black Country Abigail Cutler with Black Country Mon and Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif

THOUSANDS of runners will pound the streets of Halesowen as part of the popular Black Country Run on Sunday.

Participants can take part in 10k or 5k races organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, and his wife Zabeda will take part in the 5k race alongside Black Country Mon,

the region's own superhero. Councillor Hanif said: "The Black Country Run is always a popular event and showcases everything that is great about the community."

The run is one of July's events celebrating the Black Country.

The run, which last year raised more than £27,000 for charities, will start and finish in Halesowen town centre.

The 10k run is for those aged over 16 and starts at 9am in Birmingham Road. If places are available, registration takes place up to 8.15am (non-affiliated runners £14).

The 5k race is for all ages and sets off at 11.30am (adults £10, children £4) from Birmingham Road. Runners meet in Somers Square. See www.blackcountryrun.com website for further details.

COUNCIL

Fortnightly bins collection U-turn

PLANS to collect rubbish bins in Dudley once a fortnight look set to be scrapped after the council was forced into a rethink. Council chiefs unveiled the controversial proposals last week as part of a new cost-cutting scheme. They hoped to save £2.3 million with the move, which would also see residents charged £30 a year for green waste collections.

But the Labour-run authority on Monday confirmed there will be a rethink on the proposals, which will be scrutinised by an all-party working group.

Chiefs said the council will 'leave no stone unturned' at looking at other ways for the authority to save cash.

SKILLS

£11.7m training centre start date

PLANS for an £11.7 million manufacturing training centre in the Black Country have been formally submitted.

The skills centre proposed for the former Thomas Dudley site, off Tipton Road, Tividale, would be built in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton. It is hoped it could open next year.

The facility would offer specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern making and metal forming, becoming the latest training centre to launch in Dudley. Several similar bases have already been launched at campuses in recent years.

TRAVELLERS

One camp left as caravans move on

TRAVELLERS have now moved on from a Dudley car park.

Dozens of caravans set up camp in Flood Street last week.

At the time of going to Press, one illegal camp remained in the borough at Dudley Wood playing fields.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said that 'high level talks' with police were being held over the traveller invasions.

She said: "Most of the illegal encampments of travellers have now moved on."

"We served legal papers on them and are due to discuss the matter in court with a view to moving the Dudley Wood group on soon after that."

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MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	8
MILESTONE SUPPLEMENT	19
THE FAST TICKET	33
PUZZLES	39
MOTORING	46
SPORT	47 & 48
CONTACT US	

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School considers multi-academy trust



Olive Hill Primary School

A SCHOOL in Halesowen has proposed becoming part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) in partnership with three borough secondary schools.

Olive Hill Primary School, in Springfield Road, is undergoing a consultation process with parents and stakeholders before making the move.

It would mean that the school would join with The Earls High School, Redhill School and Thorns Community College this autumn and be called the Stour Vale Academy Trust.

A statement on the school's website

says: "Any decision on whether or not to become an academy and join the multi-academy trust will be taken by our governing body based on what is considered best for our school, our pupils, our staff and the schools who are part of the proposal to form the MAT."

"As Olive Hill is currently a community school and not yet an academy, a consultation with stakeholders must take place. The governing body is committed to taking the views of all interested stakeholders into account before any final decision."

"Schools have always operated within a changing educational landscape and it is important that Olive Hill responds in a way that ensures we are able to create the best opportunities for our pupils and to serve our wider local community."

An academy is a state-funded school which operates independently. Unlike a state school it receives funding directly from central government rather than its local authority.

Consultation runs until September 8. A meeting is being held at the school today (Thursday) at 5.30pm.

Teenager is locked up over death crash

A TEENAGER who killed a newly married telecoms engineer while speeding in his mother's car has been put behind bars for four and a half years.

Matthew Harding, aged 27, was working at the roadside in a Coseley street when he was struck by the Citroen Picasso.

The 17-year-old who was behind the wheel had ignored warnings from his mother not to take her car.

One witness told police it appeared he had 'not got a clue how to drive', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The driver, who cannot be named because of his age, had been distracted as he was trying to turn on the windscreen wipers and then swerved to avoid a parked car, the court was told.

The vehicle careered into two Virgin Media technicians, Mr Harding and his colleague Jermaine Buchanan, at the corner of Jack Holden Avenue, Woodcross.

Cannabis

The youth, from Tipton, had been driving at 47mph in the residential area and had smoked cannabis the night before.

Mr Harding, a father from Oldbury, had only got married a week before he was killed on July 20 last year.

Danielle - his wife of just 10 days - had to make the 'heartbreaking' decision to turn off his life support machine after being told by doctors there was no hope, the court was told.

Sentencing the driver, Judge James Burbridge said it was clear the teenager knew nothing about cars and had made the deliberate decision get behind the wheel anyway with catastrophic consequences.

The judge said: "This was a flagrant disregard of all the rules of the road. You took the car without permission and the inevitable happened. You knew you had been told not to drive and you knew you were incapable of driving."

The teenager, who was 16 at the time of the incident, was banned from driving for seven and a half years.

The youth had admitted causing death by dangerous driving and a separate charge of causing serious injury by dangerous driving at a previous hearing.

Symphony of celebration for orchestra



Members of Halesowen Orchestra prepare for their 30th anniversary concert at the town's Cornbow Hall

IT will be a symphony of celebration as Halesowen Orchestra performs a special 30th anniversary concert.

The event will take place on Saturday at the Cornbow Hall in the town centre.

The 40-strong instrumental ensemble hold three concerts a year.

Julie Billingham, the orchestra's longest serving member, said: "It has been a marvellous 30 years. I originally got involved after I learnt the oboe at high school."

"One of my highlights was when our last conductor Martin Leigh did a Beethoven piano concerto and conducted at the same time. It was the first time that it had been done and was absolutely amazing."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris described the group as 'one of Halesowen's hidden jewels'.

They rehearse on a Monday night during term time at Leasowes High School. The repertoire includes works by Beethoven,

Bizet, Brahms, Mozart, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky.

Mrs Billingham continued: "Come along this Saturday and take in the atmosphere and listen to live orchestral music. You will be in for a treat."

The concert will be conducted by Thomas Jarvis from 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, children under 12 free and full time students with ID cards £5, available on the door or call 0121 550 0956. Visit www.halesowenorchestra.co.uk website.

Family fun for annual party in the park event

MORE than 7,000 people are expected to descend on a Dudley borough park for an annual festival next Saturday, July 9.

Netherton Park is preparing to host entertainment for all the family from 10am.

For younger visitors there will be a bouncy pirate ship, quad bikes, giant inflatable slide, bungee trampolines, small children's rides and a paintball shooting range.

There will also be bric-a-brac and market stalls, craft and jewellery stalls and a classic car display as well as Dudley Zoo staff bringing along a number of animals.

Dance

West Midlands Fire Service will be doing demonstrations on the day and there will be representatives from a range of organisations including Dudley Lions, Compton Hospice, Dudley Fostering, Black Country Wildlife Trust, Coombeswood Canal Trust, Mary Stevens' Hospice and St John Ambulance.

A live outdoor stage will be set up behind Netherton Arts Centre as well as a separate dance and performance area.

Stage activities will include dancing, singing and live local bands and school groups.

Richard Johnson, from the Friends of Netherton Park, said: "I am sure it will be a great day again."

"This year will be the 11th year we have put on the event with it growing year on year."

Walks showcase grounds of hall

VISITORS to Himley Hall can explore the grounds created by Capability Brown during two guided walks.

The first is a tree trail which will take place from 10am until noon on Sunday. Walkers can join the senior park warden to find out more about some of the trees at this historic site.

A walk focusing on some of the architectural features and the wildlife found in the park will take place on August 7, from 10am until noon.

The meeting place for both walks is the notice board on the main car park. They are free to attend but places must be booked in advance by calling (01384) 817517.

Himley Hall is set in 180 acres of parkland designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 18th century.

Old police station is now a nursery

A NURSERY converted from an old police station in Hagley has opened. Cotton Tails Hagley, in Kidderminster Road, can look after 80 children up to the age of five. Twenty jobs could be created. It will also be home of owl mascot Dr Whoof, of Birmingham's Big Whoof.

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Workmates at council remember their friend

SANDWELL Council staff remembered a much-missed colleague on Sunday, who was killed in the Tunisian terror attack a year ago.

Adrian Evans, who lived in Bilston, began working for Sandwell Council as an apprentice in 1983. He was murdered along with his 78-year-old father Patrick and 19-year-old nephew Joel Richards on June 26 last year.

The terror attack left colleagues stunned and one year on his workmates said they are still struggling to come to terms with what happened to a man they described as 'the ultimate professional who would always go the extra mile for anybody'.

Earlier this year, staff at Roway Lane, where Mr Evans had managed the authority's gas services team, joined with his family to mark what would have been his 50th birthday. They unveiled a memorial area and bench next to his office window and announced an apprenticeship award scheme in his name.

Speaking at the unveiling of the bench, customer services supervisor Michelle Dawes, who worked closely with Mr Evans: "I still can't believe it - it's left a big hole in everybody's lives. We wanted his family to know how much he was loved."

Fears raised over lack of warnings

FAMILIES of the Tunisia terror attack victims raised concerns about a lack of warnings for travellers at a pre-inquest hearing.

Relatives of some of the 30 Britons murdered in the resort of Sousse last year fear not enough was done to alert holidaymakers of the terror risk in the country.

The attack came just three months after 24 people - including Shropshire solicitor Sally Jane Adey - were killed at the Bardo Museum in Tunis in March. Andrew Ritchie QC, who represents 17 families including Suzy Richards, said the Foreign Office had potentially failed to require holiday companies to warn Britons of the dangers.

He alleged that travel agents, including Thomson's parent company TUI, had told the Foreign Office that they intended to use 'reduced pricing' strategies for further tourists to be enticed to Tunisia following the Bardo attack. Howard Stevens QC, representing TUI, said the company 'will not accept the assertion'.

As the devastating details filtered back it is hard to imagine what they must have gone through - particularly Suzy, who flew out to Tunisia as soon as she could to be with her lone surviving son.

In the days after the attack the sense of shock in the com-

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Daniel Mole with Owen at the awards

When dream holiday became a nightmare

JUNE 26, 2015 was a stunning summer day in north Africa. The sun beat down on the beaches, as some tourists swam in the clear waters of the Mediterranean and others relaxed on sunbeds.

For four members of the same Black Country family it was the first day of a dream lads' holiday abroad. Joel Richards, his brother Owen, their uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick had travelled together to celebrate the end of Joel's second year at the University of Worcester and Owen completing his GCSEs.

They were a close-knit family group whose love for each other was clear to all who met them.

But their dream trip turned into a nightmare less than 24 hours after the quartet touched down in Sousse.

They were among scores of tourists on the beach when a lone IS gunman opened fire on Western guests - killing 38 people, including 30 Britons.

Owen survived. His older brother, uncle and grandad did not. The sparkling beach scene was instantly turned into something altogether different with the actions of a single fanatic.

Dignity

Bodies lay prone among the sunbeds, while bloodstains spread across the sand. Gunman Seifeddine Rezgui's 38 victims were covered with beach towels to preserve their dignity. And swathes of yellow and black tape set up by the Tunisian authorities soon denoted the site for what it was - a murder scene. More than 1,500 miles away, Joel and Owen's mum Suzy and gran Maureen were at home in Wednesbury.

As the devastating details filtered back it is hard to imagine what they must have gone through - particularly Suzy, who flew out to Tunisia as soon as she could to be with her lone surviving son.

In the days after the attack the sense of shock in the com-

'THE feeling of loss is as raw today as it was 12 months ago.' The words of a Walsall FC director as he paid tribute to Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans.

The Saddlers played a huge part in the lives of this particular Wednesbury family - and continue to be a source of comfort for Suzy and Owen Richards. All involved with the club will feel the loss when the news about the trio's deaths broke last year.

Walsall commissioned three specially made plaques which have been placed at Banks's Stadium.

Club secretary and director Daniel

Mole said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Joel, Patrick and Adrian. Today marks the one year anniversary of the Tunisian terror attacks and the feeling of loss is as raw today as it was 12 months ago.

"Through this tragedy, our bond with the family - Suzy and Owen in particular - has grown and, like Joel, Patrick and Adrian, they are a part of the Walsall FC family. On days such as today, and always, we will remember those that we lost whilst ensuring that we continue to be a source of comfort to those that we left behind."

Earlier this year Owen was hon-

oured by the team he loves - being handed the inaugural Pride of Walsall FC Award at a club ceremony.

Owen and his mother Suzy launched the 'Smile for Joel' charity earlier this month, which will work with Victim Support to help other families who have experienced traumatic bereavement like they did.

Suzy said her son was delighted - and surprised - by the award.

Handing over the award, Mr Mole said: "We decided Owen deserved this award for all he's been through in the past 12 months and the strength and courage he's shown."



Owen, Adrian, Patrick and Joel, seen when Saddlers made it to Wembley last year

Venture keeps Joel's name alive

THE loss of three family members in a single day could have crushed the Richards family. But the strength and will shown by the pair since that fateful day has been astonishing.

In recent months they have channelled their emotions into a charitable venture that keeps Joel's name alive.

Through Smile for Joel, the family will support other people who have found themselves in a traumatic situation like they did this time last year.

Fundraising schemes have flown in thick and fast since the launch of the charity in April - including the sale of wristbands bearing the charity's name.

The biggest venture on the horizon for the charity is a fun run which takes place

in Sandwell Valley Country Park called Run for Joel. Owen urged people to sign up to help remember his lost loved ones.

He said: "This weekend is going to be a tough weekend for me and my family.

"It would be lovely if everyone could sign up for the Run for Joel as a way of remembering my brother, grandad and uncle."

The run starts at 10am at the country park and has been organised by Smile for Joel in partnership with Sandwell Leisure Trust and Victim Support.

There will be a competitive 5k run or a more relaxed 3k fun run, jog or even a stroll. To register visit www.slt-lei.co.uk/runforjoel.

Smile for Joel will work alongside registered charity Victim Support.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drivers warned to expect disruption

MOTORISTS in Brierley Hill face disruption when resurfacing work starts tomorrow (Friday).

Lane closures will be in place on the northbound carriageway of the A4036 Thorns Road from Caledonia to Mount Pleasant until July 8.

The weather-dependent work, scheduled from 9.30am to 3.30pm, forms part of Dudley Council's ongoing maintenance. Discussions have already been held with Old Park and Thorns primary schools to ensure any disruption to access is minimised.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are undertaking the work during off-peak times in order to minimise disruption but we would ask people to bear with us while we undertake this essential maintenance."

Howzat as mayor starts festivities

THE Mayor of Dudley will be getting this year's Black Country Festival under way by raising cash for his charities at a special cricket match.

The charity match takes place tomorrow (Friday) between Dudley Council officers, councillors and members of the Black Country Festival organising committee. Proceeds from the game at Stourbridge Cricket Club will go to the Mayor's charities.

The game signals the start of a month of celebrations as part of the festival, which includes Black Country Day on July 14.

The teams of six will go head-to-head in a six-over tournament at Ambleside, from 6pm. Admission is free.

Stitch in time for museum costumes

NIMBLE-FINGERED knitters are needed to help the costume department at the Black Country Living Museum.

All are welcome whether they are a novice of the needles or an experienced knitter. It will also be a chance to have a chat and a cuppa while helping with the museum's costumes.

A session will take place tomorrow (Friday) between 1.30pm and 3pm. Meet in the museum reception. To find out more call volunteer co-ordinator Dianne Rivers on 0121 521 5610 or email dianne.rivers@bclm.com

Band tuning up for two summer concerts

MUSICIANS are tuning up for two summer concerts in July.

Langley Band will be performing at the Barlow Theatre in Oldbury. The programme will be varied, ranging from classical to pop music, conducted by musical director Cliff Parker.

The concert taking place on July 22 will start at 8pm with the following night's performance beginning at 7.30pm. Tickets for the concerts are £8, or £5 for under-16s. Tickets are available from the band secretary on (01384) 918547.



UNWRAPPING his latest acquisition, a neighbour noticed the container carried a particularly stern warning. The plastic bag was not a toy. There was a danger of suffocation. It should be kept away from children. It must be disposed of in accordance with the latest regulations. It contained a chainsaw.

I SUGGESTED a few days ago that "camping holiday" is an oxymoron, a self-contradicting phrase. A recent convert to tent pegs and canvas insists: "I see it as a camping trip, not a camping holiday." She adds: "I took it like a duck to water." Very apt. Have you checked if your toes are webbed yet?

A READER accuses me of being out of touch with football. Thank you, sir. Kindest thing anyone has said for some time. In truth "out of touch" does not begin to cover my splendid ignorance and utter disdain for the game. I dislike it at every level, from the foul-mouthed dads screaming obscenities from the touchline at under-12 matches to the swaggering, criminally-overpaid thickos of the Premiership. I hate the way it infantilises men, creating hordes of petulant, ignorant, drunken Brit-babies who burst into tears when their team loses just like they did

when they were nine, whose only interest and only topic of conversation is football, who can name every England squad member since the 1950s but can't tell you who the Chancellor is, who are permanently locked into the mind-set that England fans are just having a good time while foreign fans are hooligans. So let me tell you this: At least half the population of the UK doesn't give a damn about football, has no idea what the Euros are, finds the whole tournament vaguely embarrassing and couldn't care less who wins or loses. Oh, for goodness' sake, stop blubbing.

MAJOR Tim Peake, just back from six months in the International Space Station, says he would go back "in a heartbeat." And how does Mrs Peake feel about that?

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THE top five roads where motorists have been caught speeding in the Black Country have been revealed – with one road clocking up almost 1,000 offenders.

They include one motorist caught speeding at 92mph on the northbound carriageway of the 40mph A4123 Birmingham New Road.

A total of 970 motorists caught were on the A456 Manor Way in Halesowen, which topped the list of cameras across the region which were activated the most.

Second on the list of most triggered mobile cameras was the A459 Halesowen Road in Old Hill with 505 activations.

Third was Henwood Road northbound in Wolverhampton, which was activated on 428 occasions. Fourth was the A4123 Birmingham New Road northbound with 387 and fifth The Droveway eastbound in Wolverhampton with 351.

Halesowen North Councillor Karen Shakespeare said she was not surprised Manor Way topped the list.

Limit

She said: "The police always do seem to be there, more than a lot of other places. There are also issues with the speed limit, as it changes from 40mph to 50mph.

"I think it's not that clear for motorists to understand what exactly the speed limit is. Some of them just don't care anyway."

By David Cosgrove

The list of the top five highest speeds caught on camera in 2015-16 is topped by the northbound A4123 Birmingham New Road with one driver tearing along at 92mph.

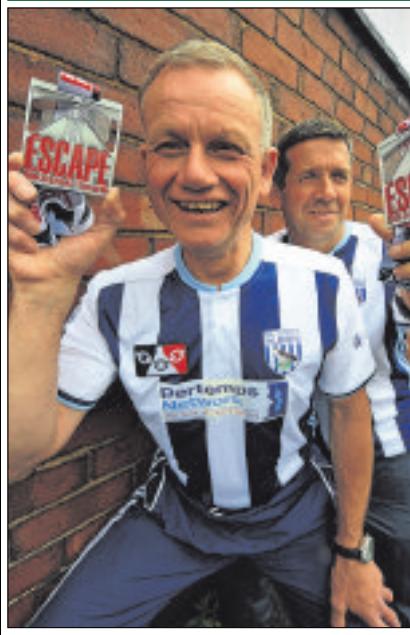
Second is the A4041 Queslett Road in Great Barr which someone was caught driving at 87mph on.

Coming in third was a driver clocked at 81mph on the A41 Black Country New Road in Wednesbury, in a 40mph stretch, while a driver was captured doing 78mph southbound on the same road near the Swan Roundabout in West Bromwich.

The top five is made up by a 78mph clocking on the southbound A4031 Trinity Way in West Bromwich.

The camera which was triggered the least number of times was on the northbound stretch of Bourne Street and Brook Street in Sedgley which was activated just 19 times.

Dave escaped from Alcatraz



Great escape – Dave Heeley and Tony Ellis with their medals

'I ACTUALLY escaped from Alcatraz.' The proud words of a Black Country fundraising hero after he arrived home following another endurance challenge.

Blind Dave Heeley added another fantastic fundraising feat to his impressive list, by completing the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon in San Francisco.

After a six-day spell in California, the West Bromwich runner said he has 'amazing' memories and a medal to show for completing one of his toughest tasks. Participants took on a one-and-a-half-mile swim in the choppy waters from Alcatraz Island to the mainland, then a gruelling 18-mile bike ride, and a eight-mile run to finish near the Golden Gate Bridge.

Dave and his sighted partner in the challenge, Tony Ellis, from Shrewsbury, finished the course in four hours 13 minutes and 11 seconds.

The pair, who were tied together, started by jumping off a boat near the shore of the former prison island in San Francisco Bay. Dave said they had been battered by the waves, adding: "It was a huge relief when our feet hit the sand."

Geology sites get global attention

INTERNATIONAL delegates paid a special visit to nature reserves in Dudley as part of the Black Country's bid to become a Global Geopark.

Delegates from China and Finland were given a tour of key geological sites. The visit by delegates was the final step in the UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) scrutiny process for the Geopark bid.

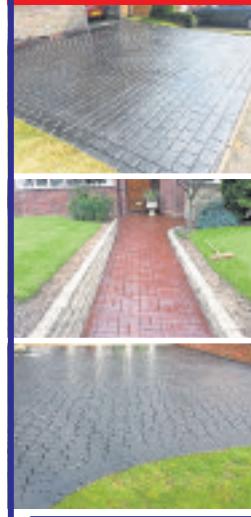
Delegates were given a tour of geological sites in the Black Country, including Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve and Saltwells Nature Reserve in Dudley, Barr Beacon in Walsall, the geopark exhibition at the Bilston Craft Gallery and Galton Valley in Sandwell.

The four Black Country authorities – including Dudley – this year submitted an application to become part of the UNESCO Global Geopark network.

A Global Geopark is an area of international significance that protects and promotes the geological and related industrial and cultural heritage for everyone to enjoy now and in the future.

The Black Country Geopark would link many heritage sites and features across the area to tell the story of the landscape. The industrial revolution of the Black Country is at the heart of the bid. To find out more go to www.blackcountrygeopark.org.uk website.

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Contest seeks innovations for the blind

INVENTORS can win a £20,000 prize in a competition to come up with innovative ideas to help the day-to-day lives of the blind or visually impaired.

The Visionary + Challenge competition has been launched by the Beacon Centre in Sedgley.

It is looking for pioneering products or services, from gadgets to make everyday tasks that little bit easier to a ground-breaking invention which would transform someone's life.

The Beacon Centre has joined forces with the University of Wolverhampton's Caparo Innovation Centre to run the contest.

The winner will receive a £20,000 prize, a combination of cash investment and in-kind support from the state-of-the-art innovation centre.

The aim is to help bring the winning product or service to the open market faster and more effectively.

Beacon Centre chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "Across the West Midlands there are already around 170,000 people affected by sight loss, by 2050 this will rise to some 350,000.

"Beacon Centre is a leading sight loss charity and we want to inspire new products or services that could transform everyday life for people with visual or other sensory impairments."

Apply at www.visionarychallenge.co.uk.

More than 20 jobs are available at care home

MORE than 20 jobs are being advertised at a care home in Halesowen due to open in September.

A total of 24 staff have already been taken on at Gower Gardens with another 23 positions available.

Run by Black Country Housing Group, the home will have 66 en-suite bedrooms.

Dropped kerb blockers are now facing a new clampdown

Huge rubbish mound is shrinking



The waste mountain in Brierley Hill is finally being reduced and should be gone by the autumn, to be replaced by homes

A MOUNTAIN of waste has shrunk – to the benefit of Brierley Hill's skyline. Diggers have clawed away at the Moor Street mound over the last few months.

It had blighted the views of neighbours for years and resulted in a company boss being jailed.

The Environment Agency is clearing the former Refuse Derived Fuel site. Workers are now more than half way

through the clean-up project, to be completed in the autumn.

The mound has ruined residents' views for seven years but Brierley Hill Councillor Rachel Harris announced they had finally 'won the battle' to get the site cleared.

She said: "It's clear the owners have stuck to their agreement and things are progressing."

"We have finally won the battle and

the rubbish is finally going rapidly."

The waste saga resulted in High Court action being taken.

Company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove the rubbish, which reached around 19 feet high in 2013.

It is hoped plans to build flats on the site once the rubbish is cleared. A scheme to build two blocks containing 94 flats was unveiled last year.

INCONSIDERATE motorists who park across dropped kerbs in town centres, blocking pedestrian crossing points, are being warned they could face a penalty charge notice from tomorrow (Friday) onwards.

That's when Dudley Council will be extending its enforcement to drivers who block dropped kerbs at crossing points, which causes problems for mobility scooters, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We want pedestrians to be able to move around our town centres easily and safely. But all too often crossing points with dropped kerbs – put in to help those on mobility scooters, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs – are being blocked by inconsiderate motorists."

"In the past we have not taken up our powers to issue a penalty charge notice to these drivers but the problem is becoming far too common."

Patrol

If residents are experiencing persistent problems of vehicles blocking a dropped kerb to their drives, they will now be able to make a written request for enforcement action.

Council bosses say requests will be considered with problem areas incorporated into patrol routes 'where resources are available'.

Councillor Bills added: "We will continue to take a common sense, fair and consistent approach to our civil parking enforcement. If you are a driver who parks responsibly and legally you really will not be affected by this."

The council said that revenue from any on-street fines will be used to support traffic and road safety schemes in the borough.

Tech firm's expansion jobs hope

A TECHNOLOGY company hopes to expand its premises and create more jobs after outgrowing its existing site.

The changes would see two single storey extensions added to existing buildings at Woodpecker Premises, in Belfont Trading Estate, Halesowen.

The company, in its planning application, said plans would also include building a portal frame and monopitch extension.

The report states: "Woodpecker Premises has outgrown its current premises and needs extra storage space."

"The proposed extra storage space will result in new jobs as the company will be able to facilitate new contracts."

The application was registered on June 22 and a decision will be made at a council planning meeting.

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Kicking off with silly squabbles after vote

IT WAS a dreadful night for both the nation and the wider European project. The result was a travesty and we are under no obligation to accept the result.

England fans demand a replay.

• • •

AS FOR that other stuff, please can everybody just calm down.

For all the bile that has been spouted on social media over the past few days, you would have thought there had been some sort of declaration of martial law, rather than a democratic vote to leave a customs union.

We always knew the poll was going to be close, and one side or the other would be disappointed.

But the amount of personal venom which has been expressed in the aftermath of the Brexit vote is ridiculous.

We've had people saying they are ashamed to be British, questioning whether the other lot are intelligent enough to vote, and saddest of all, people declaring that they can no longer be friends with those who voted the other way.

It really is time for us all to grow up.

Now when it comes to taking the rise out of politicians, I'm as up for it as the next man.

But at the same time, we should also be extremely grateful for the fact that we live in a democracy where people are free to hold their own views and vote how they like.

Suppose, for example, Zimbabwe held a referendum on whether or not to remain a member of the African Union.

Do you think Mugabe would allow a result he didn't like? And meekly resign when it didn't go his way? Exactly.

At least nobody who defied the Government last week ended up with a visit from the secret police.

But democracy is like football, and there is no game without the other team.

People may not agree with their political opponents, but they should at least have the maturity to respect and cherish them, and be grateful that they are there.

No opposition means no democracy.

• • •

BLACK Lace singer Dene Michael is now Agadio-ing a six-month stretch behind bars after being caught fiddling disability benefits.

It seems the man responsible for one of the most hateful pop songs of all time had left the Department for Work and Pensions he was housebound, when he was really out on tour pushing pineapples up the tree.

How dim are these people?

Look, if you're going to fiddle your benefits, at least choose a low-profile job.

Still it confirms what a lot of us suspected for many years.

That man really does have a criminal record.



On song – Katie Ashley at Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall



Pause for reflection at the war memorial in Cannock



Paying tribute at the Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall

Armed Forces Day hits a new height

Pulling out all the stops around the region to honour our brave British servicemen, as RICHARD GUTTRIDGE reports

PROCESSIONS, flypasts and an orchestral performance – the Black Country and Staffordshire pulled out all the stops to honour British servicemen on Armed Forces Day.

Commemorative events took place across the region over the weekend in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of serving troops, veterans and cadets.

Crowds who flocked to Himley Hall and Park saw a Spitfire take to the skies, while a Hurricane flew overhead at the RAF Museum at Cosford. The flypasts were part of a weekend filled with performances and entertainment.

Hundreds of people came out for a parade through Wolverhampton city centre, which featured members of regular, reserve, veteran and cadet forces. The parade was led by a brass band and members of the forces were applauded as they passed people lining the streets.

Impressed

The procession started in Wulfruna Street and continued down Lichfield Street towards St Peter's Church where a short service was held, with Mayor of Wolverhampton Barry Findlay leading the tributes.

The event ended with a drumhead service on the church steps – the traditional form for a religious service attended by troops in the field. The parade took place in blazing sunshine and the sudden downpour which followed during the service failed to dampen the spirits.

David Tranter, aged 72, from Willenhall, a former member of the Royal Military Police, was among veterans who turned out for the service.

He said: "It is important to say thank you. People need to be aware of the tasks we carry



All kitted out – Don Higham and John Vaughan, with a 1943 Harley Davidson

out that are asked of us as a result of decisions made by politicians.

"It was very good, and there was as good a turnout as the last one I came to. You find in Wolverhampton, there is always a good turnout for these things."

Councillor Findlay said he was impressed by this year's turnout and stressed the importance of such events.

He said: "It's really important. Every night we go to sleep our armed forces are out there protecting us and keeping us all safe and it's a

good opportunity to thank them for their hard work.

"There was a good turnout. The weather wasn't particularly great, there was a big shower but not one person turned away."

Similar events were held in Sandwell and Cannock on Saturday.

A parade in Oldbury ran from the Low Town car park to the council house while in Cannock, a procession marched to the war memorial where poppy wreaths were laid at the war memorial.

Visitors to Cosford enjoyed a performance from the The Glebe Symphonic Winds Orchestra, which held an hour-long concert for an audience which included service personnel and veterans.

They were treated to classical pieces from Edward Elgar and Gustav Holst, mixed up with more modern music from Elton John and David Bowie.

There were also special performances at Himley Hall, where singing trio the D-Day Darlings performed some of the most popular songs of the wartime era.

There was a touching tribute to ex-service personnel in attendance as they were honoured during a special veteran's badge presentation. Hundreds flocked to the park, where a funfair kept children entertained. Military vehicles and an army helicopter were also in the grounds as visitors got the chance to speak to service personnel about their roles.

Veteran Arthur Hilton, 81, from Wordsley, who was awarded the George Cross for bravery in 1953, said: "I love it, I come every year.

"It's a great day and good that people come out for the armed forces. It is getting bigger and bigger every year."

Medal

Sean Donaghey, from Telford, was attending the event to see his son-in-law, who serves in the territorial army, receive a medal.

He said: "It's important that people come out to support the armed forces. It's a good day out and gives people the chance to see what they actually do."

Civil war re-enactors also put on a demonstration for the crowds while there was also a tribute to the Queen to mark her 90th birthday and becoming the longest serving monarch.

The RAF Cosford Voluntary Band performed the spectacular Beating Retreat finale following the flypast by the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Team.

Various other events took place across the West Midlands to mark Armed Forces Day.

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire hosted a special day of activities on Saturday which included an annual service of thanks.

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Disturbed how friend Cliff was treated

I am usually very proud to be a British citizen but, as I write, I confess that my pride has been severely dented by recent events.

I am privileged to have known Sir Cliff Richard for many years. We have worked together in countless charitable initiatives and I am honoured to call him a good friend.

I have worked closely with him, have visited his home on numerous occasions and would trust him with my life. He is a man of integrity, honesty and honourable values, and I am deeply disturbed with the way our establishment

The behaviour of these two organisations was astonishingly cavalier. The BBC has attempted an apology, which is too little too late, and the South Yorkshire Police have made some attempt at recognising their shortcomings. 'Lessons learned' is not good enough as the only lesson learned is that it will happen again unless something changes. It is deeply disturbing that someone can be named and shamed before charges are brought. It now transpires that the accusations were totally without substance and merit.

DAVE POPE
CEO, Flame Trust, Dudley

So pleased Hippodrome now saved

I am writing in praise of saving the Dudley Hippodrome. Thank goodness common sense has prevailed at long last.

I worked at the Hippodrome from 1976 to 1983. I was assistant manageress. Happy days. I have so many memories and all good. I worked seven days and nights most weeks, staff and customers were the best ever I could wish for. we were like a happy family.

I was privileged to meet many stars, Pat Phoenix, Noelle Gordon, Ken Dodd, Lenny Henry (especially his mum, Winnie) Emile Ford (What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For?) when we duetted together when we were raising money to save the zoo when threatened with closure.

There's much work to be done, but if we all come together and help, the good old Hippodrome will rise from the ashes. Good luck team.

M SLATER JEFFS
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

New multi-purpose venue a better idea

YOU cannot help but admire the commitment and enthusiasm that the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have shown in saving Dudley Hippodrome from demolition.

Would it not be more worthwhile to go ahead with the demolition of this old building? It is a blot on the landscape and will cost millions of pounds to bring up to modern standards. It could be replaced with a more modern structure? If the money that the Friends are fundraising could be used to employ an architect who specialises in multi-functional buildings, using the expertise within the Friends group with Dudley Council officers they could produce a building that would be functional and blend in within the unique landscape of Castle Hill.

It would be used as a multi-purpose venue for theatre productions, boxing events, opera, theatre, workshops, amateur productions, the list goes on and on. This new structure would link the town with the zoo, castle, Black Country Living Museum, Archives and Dudley Canal Trust. It would become Dudley Community Theatre, or the Black Country Community Theatre. It would certainly be the jewel in Dudley's crown and a gateway to the town.

DT DAVIES
Dudley

Closure of home is wrong move

I read with horror of Dudley Council's decision to close Russell Court care home. I would like to raise the following points with Councillor Zada and others who voted in support of this foolish, short-sighted decision.

The pressure that is placed upon Russells Hall Hospital due to elderly patients being fit for discharge but unable to return home due to their living circumstances is tremendous. I know that Russell Court is first class in the care it provided to my 96-year-old grandmother following a fall. The wonderful and caring staff treated her with such care and compassion. I will never forget their kindness.

I also note that the home has nine long-term residents. Now it is all very well to say let's move them elsewhere, I don't think that Councillor Zada understands the impact this will have upon these residents.

P TIMMINS
Dudley

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Hilda in Oklahoma, 1965



With daughter Kay Woodhouse



The family, 2002, in Meet Me in St Louis



Hilda at the Old Vic pub with husband Jack



Her grandad, Solomon Dunn



Hilda with her sewing machine



Hilda playing Julie LaVerne in Showboat

Stitch in time for Hilda's half century on the stage

MEMORY LANE

Report by Clare Butler

AFTER stitching and sewing thousands of costumes for the last 50 years Hilda Faulkner still remains at the heart of Cradley Heath Operatic Society.

Mrs Faulkner, aged 83, from Surfet Hill Road, first got involved with the theatre society in 1965 after hearing about a show through a co-worker.

Little did she know that decades on she would be looking back on an illustrious amateur acting career having starred as the lead in numerous shows, while also making her name as the wardrobe mistress.

"It has been a labour of love," she laughed. "But it has been worth every minute. I first got involved when I was working in tailoring in Old Hill and the foreman was a member of another operatic society but his brother was part of the Cradley Heath one so I was invited along. I was 33 years old at the time. I initially started playing parts in the chorus and then eventually became lead."

Over the years Mrs Faulkner has taken part in shows ranging from Showboat, The King & I, Oklahoma and Carousel, taking on older parts as the decades passed. In 1979 she played the lead, Julie LaVerne, in Showboat, wearing a purple velvet dress with matching hat. Then, in 1995, she played Queenie, the hardworking ship's cook, in the same show.

"It was about 10 years after I started to get involved with the costumes. And because I worked in tailoring I became wardrobe mistress," said Mrs Faulkner.

"My forte is men's clothing. I used to make my husband's suits and when we got married, for the wedding, I made both my mother and father's suits, my husband's and the two small bridesmaids' dresses. For the operatic society, we hire in costumes for the big shows but I worked with the costumier to make them fit. You can imagine, with people coming in all shapes and

sizes, the costumes would need altering. I couldn't cut them because they had to go back."

"Whenever anybody asks what my favourite one to make has been I can't say because they have all been special and unique in their own way. I loved playing Julie in Showboat." Mrs Faulkner has also been chair of the society for around 28 years. It even became a family affair too her daughter, Kay Woodhouse, became secretary. Her two granddaughters are also both involved with Sally Gage, 36, becoming a choreographer and director, and Liz Compton, 32, a leading actress.

"Looking back over 50 years has brought some wonderful moments and lots of friends."

The group, formed in 1908 as Cradley Heath, Old Hill and District Amateur Operatic Society, changed its name in 1964 after moving to the Civic Hall in Brierley Hill. *Mrs Faulkner was interviewed and filmed for Chains, Dogs and CHAOS, a film by Multistory and Sarah Tibbets in 2014. Multistory, is an arts organisation based in West Bromwich. For more information, visit www.multistory.org.uk



Hilda's favourite role - Showboat, 1979



Hilda caught the performing bug aged 14



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Pride of place for Dudley Bug and Coseley Spider

THE Dudley Bug and the Coseley Spider are among the major scientific finds taking pride of place at the revamped Lapworth Museum of Geology, which has opened in Birmingham after a £2.7 million refit.

The museum, at the heart of the University of Birmingham, has undergone a massive refurbishment. It aims to explore life in the Midlands over the past 3.5 billion years, with displays looking at rocks, fossils, volcanoes, earthquakes and dinosaurs.

The Dudley Bug is a 428 million year old trilobite. They looked like giant woodlice and the fossils were found in the limestone caverns under Dudley. The Coseley Spider, or Eophyrinus prestwichii, is a spider-like arachnid from the late Carboniferous Period, which around 315 million years ago. It was a predator chasing its prey before finishing it off with its powerful jaws.

Earthquakes

Also on display will be the JJ Shaw seismograph. Mr Shaw (1873-1948) was a West Bromwich-based pawnbroker who became interested in earthquakes.

He built a device to record earthquakes, using bits of bikes, tin cans, knitting needles and anything else he could find.

When it turned out that it actually worked he had his prototype precision-made and turned his greenhouse and cellar at his West Bromwich home into a mini production line.

The seismograph was distributed around the world and became the standard device for measuring earthquakes.

Shaw also recorded earthquakes at his seismic observatory in his home.



The Dudley Bug



The Coseley Spider



Museum director Jon Clatworthy (left) with keeper of collections Richard Butler
Pictures: John James from the University of Birmingham

The Lapworth Museum has been closed for nearly two years prior to the re-opening last week.

Museum director Jon Clatworthy said: "The new exhibits will provide a far more hands-on approach to learning about the 3.5 billion years of his-

tory we showcase." The museum is open 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday, from noon to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is free admission.

The museum is located at the university's Edgbaston campus, off the Ring Road South.

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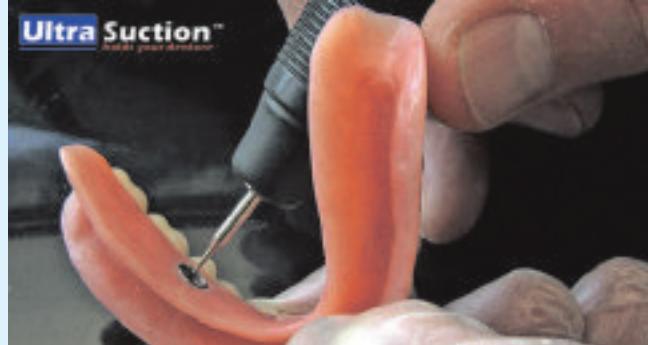


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Five years on – living with the Ultra Suction Solution

A FRAID to laugh in public and perpetually having trouble eating, Jenny admits she left it far too long before sorting out some new dentures.

Jenny (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous, I was using so much on the lower denture, but every time I ate food the denture would become loose. I was fighting a losing battle; all the fixative would be gone by the end of the meal," she recalls.

'Stickability'

Aware that things were only going to get worse, she found her way to the Denture Clinic and booked in to see Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng).

"Dentures have to work incredibly hard and if there's friction on the soft tissues chewing efficiency is massively decreased," says Steven.

Jenny takes up the story: "I wear full dentures and the lower was particularly troublesome and would move about no matter what food I ate.

"It was hopeless really. Chewing crusty bread, eating apples and steaks were totally

out of the question. I really didn't want to go through the surgical procedure of having an implant retained denture and was offered what was then the new Suction Dentures."

It's now been five years since the prescription was made in the Denture Clinic's on-site laboratory.

"One of the first patients we prescribed the non-invasive Ultra Suction Dentures that hit the UK market from New Zealand, 'Jenny' is still enjoying excellent outcomes from the system."

Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth."

How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking. The device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures.

The Ultra Suction Denture system is not suitable for everyone, but for those with the right kind of gum contours, a great option add another level of 'stickability'.

Secure, comfortable and natural looking, these prosthetics attract the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic.

FOR some it's the final chance of a solution, desperate for help as too many failing teeth have eroded confidence and any quality of life. Others have come at their wits' end with unstable dentures and still more as referrals from other practitioners. However they arrive at Dudley's North Street Dental and Implant Clinic, central to many of their solutions is this man (right) dental implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL).

IT'S hard to imagine after losing natural teeth, things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is acknowledged as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of native teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now recognised as a mourning process. In a recent edition of the British Dental Nurses' Journal it highlights the stages of bereavement.

We all know that tooth loss can impact on our choices of food and the ability to chew properly. But less 'visible' and perhaps more significant, is the way teeth can compromise social interaction. Losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can stop us living life spontaneously.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss. It can be embarrassing, painful and erode self-esteem.

Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says: "We see almost on a weekly basis in our clinics that failing teeth – both natural and dentures – can have a hugely corrosive effect on lifestyles."

Solutions without using dental implants have been around for a long time – indeed, bridges, full dentures and partial dentures still offer excellent options.

Adds Steven: "If the patient is suitable, and few are not, dental implants whether for single or multiple teeth replacement, or to replace a complete arch of teeth, can offer long-term solutions and generally very predictable clinical outcomes."

Surgical skills

For those with denture stabilisation issues, implants can provide secure anchor points with press-fit like abutments that are guaranteed to hold an over-denture in place.

"Once dentures lose their initial harmonious fit, the process of bone erosion beneath the gums is accelerated as the prosthetic is perpetually dislodged by the processes of speaking and eating. Over time the problems of sore spots and the denture succumbing to the forces created in the mouth by chewing and speaking become more acute.

"Our implant retained dentures have a bite

comparable to natural teeth, look stunning, appear as natural teeth and deliver the patient a dental therapy where we can categorically guarantee an end to denture stabilisation issues," adds Steven.

All denture prescriptions at the clinic are hand-crafted on site in the laboratory using only premium quality materials and state-of-the-art production.

With more than 25 years' experience placing implants, Owain was in the vanguard of UK implant therapy while working as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Adds Steven: "We're incredibly fortunate to have someone of Owain's professional stature working with us. He's innovative, accessible, everything you'd expect of a dentist with such advanced surgical skills . . . and a genuinely nice guy to meet."

Complex surgical cases, general dentistry and not least, the patients who require full mouth restorations, fall under his clinical remit.

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If you're seeking a family-friendly dental practice with a great reputation for offering innovative solutions, you've just found it.

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● And it's about changing preconceptions of the 'going to the dentist' experience

Former midwife's engaging smile is reborn

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about her smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural,"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Unstable

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her fist tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't have done more to save her teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.



New smile – Vicki Ball

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crisp fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicki says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable," she said.

A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic.

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK), Dip Imp Dent (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial features. Says Vicki, "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth."

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Musical evening to start festival

THE Mayor of Dudley will attend an evening of music during the Black Country Festival's opening weekend.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif will be tapping his feet to the musicals at Music of the Night, presented by Gig Caritas at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 2 from 7.30pm.

There will be performances from stars of West End classics including Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, We Will Rock You and Wicked.

Other attractions are Sound Company Community Choir, Birmingham Institute of Theatre Arts and the 30-piece Gig Caritas Orchestra. Tickets cost £10 from gigcaritas.com.

This year's festival runs from July 1 to 31 and other activities during the opening weekend include Halesowen Carnival on July 2, Stourbridge Carnival on July 3 and the Great Black Country Road Run in Halesowen on July 3. Events will take place including Black Country Day on July 14.

Support group work puts Jon in line for citizen award

A MAN who set up a support group for men struggling with depression and addiction is up for an Outstanding Citizen award.

Jon Mansell, aged 43, runs free drop-in group, Ex Boozehounds at the Hope Centre in Halesowen. He also writes a popular blog, detailing his own experiences with addiction and mental health issues.

Mr Mansell is up for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Outstanding Citizen award and will find out if he has won at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on July 13.

He said: "The staff from the Hope Centre got in touch a year ago after reading my blog and said that I could help there. Some days in the group there are two people, other days there are eight. It gives men the chance to focus on their demons and talk through their issues.

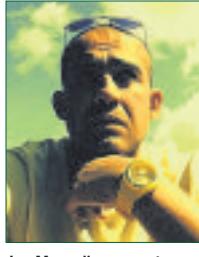
"We help each other through different things and relax. We support them and then their confidence builds and they strengthen.

"There is a lot of pressure on men. Take me, for example, people say that by 43 I should be married, with kids, a 4X4 and a semi-detached house and good job – if you don't have those,

you're a failure and that pressure is unhealthy.

"I am against that whole 'just pull yourself together' attitude but it does feel as though things are changing. I'm in the process of setting up another group. Attitudes are changing and we are moving in the right direction. I want to fight against the stigma and be upfront, honest and not ashamed. I was chuffed to bits to get the nomination."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Jon is putting his head above the parapet to help a group of people so often overlooked."



Jon Mansell – support group

Towering ambition for landlocked lighthouse

A MONUMENTAL 'lighthouse' could stand at the centre of the redeveloped former Chance Brothers Glassworks site in Smethwick, say developers behind the proposed £10 million scheme.

A group aiming to renovate the Spon Lane site with homes and new employment opportunities want the giant structure as a centrepiece.

World

The lit-up tower would pay homage to the Smethwick glassworks which provided optical components used in lighthouses around the world. The glass face on London's Big Ben was also made there.

Designs show the lighthouse overlooking the M5. Much of the site, including the iconic seven-storey building next to the motorway, has fallen into ruin. The Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust want the green light to regenerate the area.

Homegrown horror movie getting Close



Tense moment – Emmy Award winner Glenn Close in a scene from horror thriller The Girl With All The Gifts

THE first trailer for a new zombie horror movie which was filmed in the Black Country, Birmingham and on Cannock Chase has been released. The Girl With All The Gifts, starring Staffordshire-born Peaky Blinders actor Paddy Considine, Hollywood star Glenn Close and Gemma Arterton is set for release later this year. Scenes were shot at locations in Dudley and Halesowen for the movie, which is based on a novel by Mike Carey.

Asylum seeker jailed for exposing himself

AN ASYLUM seeker who exposed himself to teenaged sisters in Dudley has been jailed and faces deportation.

Mohammed Saeed, who spent 18 years in the Pakistani army, fled to Britain because he claimed he was at risk from the Taliban.

Saeed, of Benton Road, Birmingham, was drunk when he exposed himself on three separate occasions since 2014. Twice it happened when he was on police bail.

On the first occasion, on October 26, 2014, he exposed himself to a 22-year-old mother who was walking through Birmingham City Centre with her young daughter at about 2.30pm. Just under a year later, on October 11, 2015, he took a bus to Dudley town centre and was spotted by two girls, just 14 and 15, as he exposed himself on Priory Road. Police were called and arrested Saeed, who was already on bail. On February 17 this year, a young couple and a woman in Smethwick saw 49-year-old Saeed expose himself. On bail for the second offence, he was again arrested.

Ashamed

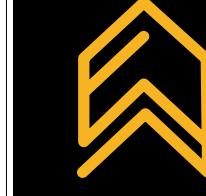
Saeed admitted just the third offence, having pleaded guilty to that at a hearing earlier this year.

His barrister, Esther Thornber, said Saeed was ashamed at having drunk alcohol, which he had said is forbidden by his religion, and has pledged to never drink any again.

Judge Kristina Montgomery QC said the string of offences were too serious to prevent him going to prison. She jailed him for a total of 15 months.

For the offence in October 2014 he will serve four months and for the offence in October 2015 he will serve another six months. She handed him a further five months for the February 2016 offence.

Under current guidelines asylum seekers are automatically deported if they receive a prison sentence of over 12 months. If he remains in the UK he will be subject to a five-year sexual harm prevention order. He will need to sign the Sex Offender Register for 10 years.



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Hospital maternity investigation move

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into maternity care at Russells Hall Hospital. It comes after some patients contacted medical negligence lawyers.

The handling of 25 births at the Dudley hospital over the last two years will be reviewed. Hospital chiefs said they would look into incidents which have been previously investigated.

Several mothers have received letters to say their case is being re-examined, including Louise Oakley, from Dudley. Her son Myles was born on May 7 last year but died the following day. The 39-year-old said: "We were obviously devastated at Myles' death last year and wanted to know what had gone wrong. We have already asked lawyers to investigate the care we received because we wanted an independent view but this letter just makes us even more determined."

Paula Clark, chief executive at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Dudley Group is undertaking a retrospective review of a selection of maternity unit incidents, where patients may have experienced unexpected complications, to ensure our investigations process and the care of patients is to the highest standard.

"This is in response to a request from NHS England seeking assurance about learning from incidents.

"We are looking at cases over a two-year period and carrying out an in-depth review of 25 out of the 9,000 births during that time. This review is taking closer look at the process to investigate incidents, to ensure that we learn lessons and share that learning appropriately for the benefit of patients going forward. We recognise this is going to be a difficult time for families and we will be liaising closely with them to ensure they have an opportunity to be involved in the review."



Oldbury Rep's cast for the 39 Steps Phil Astle, Christopher Stanton (as Richard Hannay), Dawn Burgess and Paul Marks

Rep steps out with hilarious spy thriller

A CAST of four will race through more than 150 characters in a comedy version of a classic spy thriller.

Based on John Buchan's novel and Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 movie, The 39 Steps will bring the curtain down on Oldbury Rep's 77th season.

The fast-paced production will feature an on-stage plane crash, old-fashioned romance and a death-defying finale.

It will be staged from next Saturday, July 9, to July 16, at 7.30 nightly at the 170-seat Barlow Theatre in Langley.

A company spokesman said: "A riotous blend of virtuous performances and wildly inventive stagecraft, The 39 Steps amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure and a fun filled end to our season."

This version of the award-winning play, written by Patrick Barlow, mixes zany Monty Python style humour with stiff-upper-lip style old fashioned British grit as hero Richard

Hannay finds himself on the run after stumbling across a dastardly plot against Britain during the run-up to the First World War.

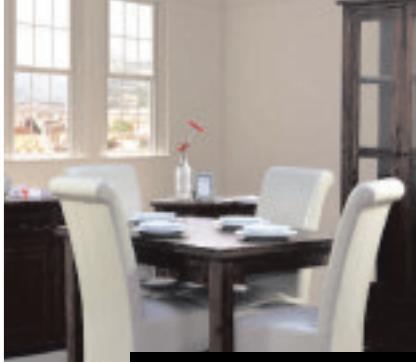
Tickets are £10, or £9 concessions, with a discounted Monday and Tuesday price of £8.

Tickets can be bought from the box office on Mondays from 7.30pm. Call 0121 552 2761 or book online at www.oldburyrep.org website.

Other forthcoming amateur productions include Joe Orton's What The Butler Saw (September 10 to 17); The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by Debbie Isitt (October 10-15); The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde by Nick Lane (November 5-12); and panto Dick Whittington in January.

Meanwhile, the Langley Band's annual summer concerts take place at the Spring Walk venue on Friday, July 22, from 8pm and the following night at 7.30. For tickets phone 01384 918547.

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Fraudster fleeced pop fans out of thousands

MUSIC fans were fleeced out of thousands of pounds by an online fraudster based in Dudley.

Matthew Thompson, of Upper Gornal, advertised the non-existent tickets for concerts by artists including One Direction, Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake and Michael Bublé on classified advertisement websites Gumtree and Craigslist for up to £90 each.

By Rob Cox

was then transferred to his bank account.

Mr Richard McConaghay, prosecuting, said: "He never purchased the tickets himself in the first place.

"He produced false documentation from Ticketmaster in order to show to his buyers he had bought the tickets he was purporting to sell."

The court also heard Thompson would lie about why the tickets were for sale, saying such things as the gig clashed with a holiday.

The court heard his crimes since October 2013 had made him around £4,000.

He was given a 90-week jail term which included the 20-week sentence suspended to September 2015.

The court heard his crimes since October 2013 had made him around £4,000.

He was given a 90-week jail term which included the 20-week sentence suspended to September 2015.

Thompson admitted 12 specimen fraud charges from a list of 17. He asked the court to consider 14 similar offences which made a further £2,526 profit.

Some customers received a partial refund.

Due to lack of assets he was ordered to pay back just £1.

Heart charity 5k run

AN EVENING charity run is taking place in Baggeridge Country Park, near Dudley, tonight (Thursday).

The 5km trail run will take place in aid of Action Heart, the Dudley-based cardiac rehabilitation charity. It will take place at 7pm and entry costs £10, or £8 for members of running clubs. For more information call (01842) 292233 or see the www.actionheartrunning.com website.

Call for better security at store after theft from van

TWO brothers who run a gardening business in the Black Country have called for DIY giant B&Q to improve security after they were the latest victims in a spate of 40 thefts over a year at the Bilston store.

Ashley and Luke Norman, who run Lawn Enforcers, had £1,000 worth of equipment stolen from their van at the Bilston branch last week.

Gear stolen from the van included a mower, two strimmers and a post hole borer.

The pair had parked in the area where tradesmen load their goods, but while they were in the store to pay for their supplies, the thieves struck. Due to there being no CCTV coverage, police told the pair that there was little they could do.

Ashley, 29, from Coseley, said: "I parked in the trade section. While I

was inside, the stuff was taken. I just want to make people aware.

"We're going to just have to take the hit financially, because if we claimed on our insurance the premium would probably go up so much that it wouldn't be worth it.

"Luckily we've got plenty of work but if this had happened this time last year the business wouldn't have survived."

A spokesperson for B&Q said: "We are aware of this incident. Unfortunately, this particular section of the car park is not currently covered by CCTV."

West Midlands Police logged 77 incidents at the store in the past year with 11 similar thefts.

Deb Edwards of West Midlands Police said: "If anybody has any information that they could help us with, please call us on 101."



Luke and Ashley Norman with their van that was raided when they visited Bilston's B&Q store

MP is backing bid to stop rich dodging tax

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has backed a move stop the very wealthy stashing their money in tax havens.

Labour Mr Austin has joined with a cross-party group of MPs calling for Government to publish figures on who owns what in the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories.

The Government is currently planning to collect this information but share it only with HM Revenue & Customs on a confidential basis.

Mr Austin has previously backed the Multinational Enterprises (Financial Transparency) Bill, which would force multinational companies to come clean on tax.

Mr Austin said: "People in Dudley want big businesses to invest in Britain, but they want them to pay their fair share of tax too."

"While millions of families and the vast majority of British firms pay their fair share, it's not right that some firms don't. That's why I'm backing this proposal to make sure that big companies and rich individuals can't get away with making deals in private so that they can pick and choose the tax they pay."

Move to ban shoplifter from area's retail parks

POLICE want to ban one of the Black Country's most prolific shoplifters from up to five retail parks in the area, it has been revealed.

The move comes after a security guard feared he was about to die after having a pair of scissors pressed against his throat by Raphael Scarlett.

The 35-year-old – who has clocked up 137 previous convictions including 85 for theft and dishonesty – was spotted stealing coffee and chocolate worth £69 at B&M in Axeltree Way, Wednesbury, on April 20.

As he was detained by guard Darren Nelson, Scarlett grabbed a pair of scissors from a desk after being taken to the security office of the store.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Mr Nelson struggled to disarm him. He later told police: "I felt metal on my neck and it was pushing into my neck. I thought I was going to die."

"I thought of my family and the way it was coming to an end."

Scarlett fled from the shop and was trying to escape on his bike when Mr Nelson again managed to stop him, said Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting.

Mr Will Rose, defending, said Scarlett was desperate to avoid going back to prison.

He explained: "He panicked and made the very foolish decision to pick up the scissors."

Scarlett from Grenville Drive, Smethwick, pleaded guilty to affray and theft and was jailed for one year and 10 months by Recorder James Steel QC.

Wolves legends to meet the fans

A FREE event at the Wolves Museum at the Molineux stadium is set to score a success with fans.

Club legends will be on hand between noon and 3pm to meet supporters on Friday, July 8, at the museum, where supporters will receive free entry and access to a special interactive Games Zone, History Zone and Cinema Zone.

Fans will also have the opportunity to have their football memorabilia valued by experts.

The event, which runs from 11.30am to 5pm, is part of the city council's Enjoy Wolverhampton initiative.

Wolves Head of Marketing, Matt Graysom, said: "The Wolves museum has established itself as a great family visitor attraction in the city, with £1 million invested to create a fantastic interactive football experience."

Booking is essential. Visit www.wolves.co.uk/tickets and select the Online Sales and Museum options. Select July 8th at the checkout and enter promotional code WWFCM.

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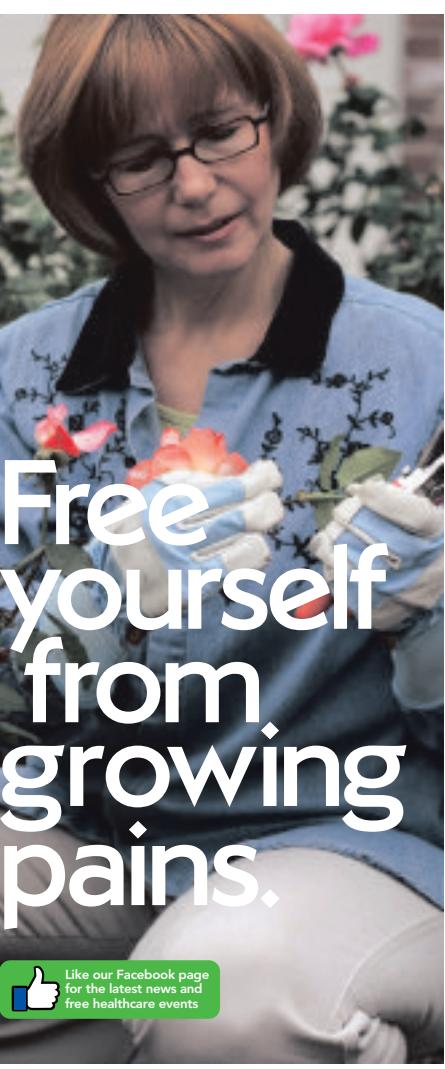
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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Back to basics

One in three people with debilitating back pain in the Midlands say they don't have a formal diagnosis for their back pain symptoms and do not understand how to treat it. This is leading to widespread anxiety, depression and avoidable time off work, research suggests.

Figures from Nuffield Health reveal of 3,322 questioned nationally, 36 per cent said they suffer lower back pain.

Of the 98 who live in the Midlands, half of these respondents had been treated by a physiotherapist for back pain yet over a quarter felt anxious about doing physical activity or exercise for fear of making the problem worse.

Nuffield Health notes a sedentary lifestyle and a lack of awareness of how to obtain an accurate diagnosis are contributing to a large population – 786,000 in the West Midlands alone based on this snapshot view¹ – living with painful symptoms which could be avoided.

Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Consultant Spinal Surgeon Mr Mushtaque Ishaque, says: "Although millions of people suffer from debilitating back pain, there is still a lack of consistency and understanding about how to prevent and treat it. Delaying a diagnosis and delaying early intervention, including exercise, can be harmful due to the long-term impact on family life, careers and psychological welfare."

Work related back pain is a major ill-health condition in Great Britain and led to 2,957,000 lost working days in 2014/15 according to the Health and Safety Executive.² The average number of days lost per case is 13.3 days.

According to Nuffield Health research one in 10 of those questioned with back pain in the Midlands said they are on long-term sickness benefit or cannot work due to their symptoms, while one in five have taken at least a week off work due to back pain, though this is well under the national average of 28 per cent.

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Left, work related back pain is a major problem. Inset Mr Mushtaque Ishaque



Mr Ishaque continues: "There may not be a medical or surgical solution for many, and doctors need to be honest about what can be achieved, but if a patient is empowered with knowledge then they can use the information to help themselves."

"An early diagnosis can help prevent people from spending years in pain and being resigned to an inactive life."

The link between a sedentary lifestyle and back pain is well documented and Nuffield Health research shows the Midlands has a higher proportion (78 per cent) of residents who classify their lifestyle as 'sedentary' than the national average (74 per cent).

The Nuffield Health three steps to reducing back pain:

1. Build regular exercise into your daily routine. 'Couch potatoes' or those who lead a sedentary lifestyle are more than twice as likely to suffer back pain.

2. Make sure you are taking regular breaks at work. One in three back pain sufferers in the UK do not take regular short breaks at work.

3. Pay attention in high risk jobs. One in four back pain sufferers drive long distances for work or have a manual occupation. And 40 per cent with desk jobs have lower back pain.

For more information visit www.nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/wolverhampton

1. Based on a West Midlands population of 5.6 million, ONS data 2011, ons.gov.uk retrieved May 2016. 2. Health Services Executive, Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorder Statistics, Great Britain, 2015, hse.gov.uk/statistics, retrieved May 2016.

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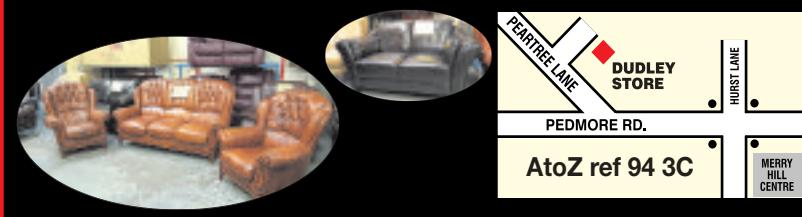
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Fleetwood Mac fan makes appeal to veteran gig goers

IS it just one of those Rumours or the stuff of Dreams but did music legends Fleetwood Mac play Wolverhampton Civic Hall back in 1970?

The venue's bosses can't find the concert in the records and are now appealing to the public for help.

Former Wulfrunian Dave Finley, aged 63, who emigrated to Australia in the 1980s, said he was sure the band had played at the Civic or adjoining Wulfrun Hall around 1970. He emailed the Civic for confirmation but the venue has no record of the concert.

Mr Finley said: "I am currently writing recollections from my life and I have a memory of going to the Civic Hall or Wulfrun to see the band in or around 1970. It was the first date with my then girlfriend Bernadette Evans. I was an apprentice at Dowty Boulton Paul Aircraft

Ltd. I was 17-years-old and studying at Wulfrun College. I am sure I got hold of tickets for the Fleetwood Mac gig and asked her to go with me. I had cheap tickets at the back but we walked to the third row which only had one person sitting in it.

The line-up was odd. I understood it to be the first, or a trial, without Pete Green. I find it odd that the Fleetwood Mac site, which lists all of their tours since the start, does not mention this concert."

Mr Finley, now a grandfather of seven, married Bernadette (known as Dette) and they lived in Newbridge until immigrating in 1982. They divorced after 25 years. "I see both Dette and my second – also divorced – wife daily and we all get on well," he added. Anyone who can recall the gig is asked to email www.wolvescivic.co.uk with information.



Mr Finley, centre here with family, has happy memories of a Fleetwood Mac concert in Wolverhampton

Dog that bit woman will not be destroyed

A DANGEROUS dog that mauled a woman's hand as she went to stroke it will not be destroyed, a court heard.

The eight-year-old American bulldog and Staffordshire bull terrier cross, named Geezer, was off the lead with owner Maurice Hutchinson when the attack on Wendy Young happened in Dudley.

The victim, who was visiting her sister at Claverley Court, was taken to hospital needing treatment for serious injuries.

She had been heading into the foyer when Hutchinson walked in with his dog. She lowered her right hand to greet the animal when it bit into her hand and would not let go.

Hutchinson, aged 62, who lives in Claverley Court, hit the dog with his stick to try and get it to release Ms Young's hand but to no avail.

Released

He then kicked the dog, which then released its grip in the incident on June 6 last year. Ms Young was treated in hospital for three puncture wounds and tendon damage.

Appearing at Dudley Magistrates Court, Hutchinson was charged with being the owner of a dog which was dangerously out of control.

He was issued with a curfew, meaning he must be at his home address from 10pm to 6am every day for three months. He was also ordered to pay a total of £395, including costs of £85, compensation to the victim of £250 and a victim surcharge of £60. Magistrate Teresa

Popplewell also made the dog subject to a contingent destruction order – meaning that it must be muzzled and on a lead whenever outside of Mr Hutchinson's home, should only be walked by someone aged 18 and above and must be neutered and insured. The microchip identity details of the dog must also be passed to the dangerous dogs unit at West Midlands Police.

An assessment of the dog, carried out by the police, revealed that the dog became agitated and aggressive when put on a lead and became easily stressed, with out inhibition to bite.

Magistrate Popplewell said: "We have heard the report of what happened on June 6 and have taken a long time to think about what to do in this case.

"With a contingent destruction order, there are conditions you have to comply with if you want to keep your dog. He must also be under control when persons enter your home address and needs to be insured and neutered."

New marathon to run in Birmingham

THE date for a new Birmingham marathon to be held next year has been announced.

The inaugural Birmingham International Marathon will take place on Sunday, October 15 2017. The marathon, which has already attracted huge levels of interest, will start at Alexander Stadium and finish in the heart of the city.

Former long-distance runner and BBC athletics commentator Brendan Foster, who is chairman of the Great Run Company, which has organised the event, said: "Our ambition for the Birmingham International Marathon is to do in the autumn what the London Marathon does in spring – to provide a world-class opportunity for top athletes through to people who just want to raise money for charity."

The marathon will be staged on the same day in 2017 as the well-established half marathon in the city.

Sea Life Centre has a Dory story

THE National Sea Life Centre Birmingham has teamed up with Disney-Pixar to enable its visitors this summer to share the excitement of a newly-released animated movie.

A special Disney-Pixar Finding Dory event will be hosted from July 16 until September 11 at the Midlands' based attraction, as well as 11 other Sea Life centres in the UK and Ireland.

Visitors will be led on an interactive trail by one of the new movie's star sea creatures Hank (voiced by Ed O'Neill), a cantankerous octopus.

"Hank will appear in displays right through each centre, revealing amazing fishy facts and providing collectible 'letters' which will need unscrambling at the end of the journey to earn a reward," said event organiser Jamie Turner.

"Like Finding Nemo before it, the new film is likely to inspire an interest in marine life among millions of children."

For more information or to pre-book tickets online visit www.sealife.co.uk/birmingham

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Now Dexys indeed do Irish and soul

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

MORE than 30 years after he first had the idea, Kevin Rowland has finally recorded his 'Irish' album.

Backed by the barebone 21st century Dexys, the former Brummie hairdresser also injects a fair bit of soul into the portentously entitled *Let The Record Show: Dexys Do Irish and Country Soul*. It remains more influenced by Van Morrison than the folk music of his Emerald Isle ancestors and enjoyment depends entirely on your stance over the impassioned, highly distinctive Rowland whoops and warbles.

Lovely opener *Women Of Ireland*, highlighting the violin of Come On Eileen fiddler (and former Birmingham Conservatoire student) Helen O'Hara, sets the Celtic tone. It continues with *Curragh of Kildare*, *Carrickfergus*, *40 Shades of Green* and Irish pub favourite *I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen*. I think old time Dexys fans will prefer versions of *The Bee Gees' To Love Somebody* and *Rod Stewart's You Wear It Well*, and the soulful retro pop of *Grazing In The Grass*. The *Marmite* track, for Rowland devotees only, is his showboating performance of *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*.

Wolverhampton's *Beverley Knight* confirms her status as the UK's Queen of Soul on her back-to-basics album *Soulsville*, including a neat cover of *Private Number* with Jamie Cullum and a potent version of Ann Peebles classic *I Can't Stand The Rain*. She also teams up with Sam Moore (from soul legends Sam and Dave) for a version of *Hold On I'm Coming*, after taking on blues standard *Hound Dog* and winning with the assistance of Jools Holland.



Kevin Rowland, centre, explores his Irish roots on the new Dexys album

It can be argued that French synth duo *Air* peaked too early, that the output since their ultra-cool debut album *Moon Safari* has failed to live up to its retro yet also futuristic sound. Whilst *Moon Safari* does provide the stand-out tracks on *Twenty Years*, their 31-track double CD retrospective, there is lots more to enjoy, such as the crunchy *Don't Be Light* and the lovely mood music of *Alone in Kyoto*.

Former Prince associate Xavier, now operating under the moniker *Fantastic Negrito*, brings the blues kicking and screaming into the 21st century on his impressive and hard-hitting album *The Last Days Of Oakland*.

Hip hop collides with the blues, sharing a cry of rage, whilst he also offers a brilliant version of folk song *In The Pines* (also known as *Where Did You Sleep Last Night?*), previously recorded by Lead Belly and Nirvana.

One of the best live bands around, *Augustines*, charge out of the gate firing on all cylinders on their third album *This Is Your Life*. Singer Billy McCarthy's heart-on-his-sleeve style and his band's rollicking ramshackle rock

'n' roll potency, which makes the New Yorkers such an exciting prospect on stage, transfers to the album right from the off with lead single *Are We Alive?* The songs are big, beefy and honest.

They are due to play the Rainbow Warehouse in Digbeth on October 20.

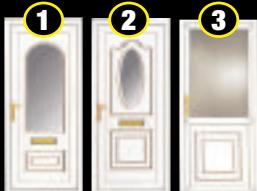
Piano, percussion and sax trio *Mammal Hands* present a brilliant set of cool modern accessible jazz on their second album *Floa*.

There are a clutch of fine new albums from distinctive singer-songwriters from the indie alt-rock scene, proving that there is lots of creativity and integrity worth exploring beyond the commercial behemoth Ed Sheeran.

Recommended listeners include: *Waltzed In From The Rumbling*, the analogue crafted fourth album from Canadian outfit *Plants And Animals* fronted by Warren Spicer; meditations on loss of innocence from County Antrim's *Ciaran Lavery* on his second album *Let Bad In*; beautiful and uplifting songs from Danish singer-songwriter *Soren Juul*, formerly known as Indians, on his 4AD album *This Moment*.

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Katie's story triumph helps her heal after op

AN inspirational teacher who was diagnosed with a brain tumour has published her first book after winning a national children's story competition.

Katie Smith, of Stourbridge, was struck down with debilitating headaches just weeks after returning from her honeymoon with husband Luke.

Following her diagnosis the 31-year-old was told that she may not live to see her 40th birthday.

But now she has won a writing competition launched by ITV's Lorraine Kelly.

Katie, who is head of English at a Wyre Forest school, said: "Not long after I got back from my honeymoon, I started to have dreadful headaches. I assumed that they were migraines.

Urgent

"I was referred for a scan and although it was requested as 'urgent' I wasn't too worried. That evening I had a call from my doctor who broke the news that they had found something and I needed to go to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham straight away. Luke and I cried together and agreed that we would take things a day at a time."

Katie's operation lasted four hours and 90 per cent of the tumour was removed.

In February she was told that there was a one-in-three chance the tumour would be back in five years and that there was only a 50 per cent chance of her making it to 40.

She decided to make a bucket list while also dealing with her mother's prognosis of Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

"Over the weeks we've spent quite a lot of time sitting around watching daytime TV together and when



Katie Smith recovering from surgery to remove the brain tumour



Katie and her husband Luke during their honeymoon in New York

we saw Lorraine Kelly announce her Top Tales competition to find a new children's author we decided that we would enter," said Katie.

"I was the only one who actually did and when I was invited onto the show and it was announced live that I was the winner, it took my breath away.

"When I was off-camera the tears just wouldn't stop. It was wonderful to have achieved something like that at such an awful time. To be told that the publishers knew little if anything about my brain tumour and be reassured that I didn't win on a sympathetic vote and that it was all about the story was just what I wanted to hear."

The book, called The Pumpkin Project, will be published by Hachette Children's Books in autumn. The main character is a kind eight-year-old called Lottie who together with her grandpa sets about growing a pumpkin for a school project and becomes a celebrity in the process.

Katie said: "My goals at the moment are to see my book published and to be among the 20 per cent of people who live for more than five years after a brain tumour diagnosis. The public support for an online petition backed by Brain Tumour Research was incredible."

Visit braintumourresearch.org for details or to donate visit justgiving.com/braintr and quote 'Katie Smith'.

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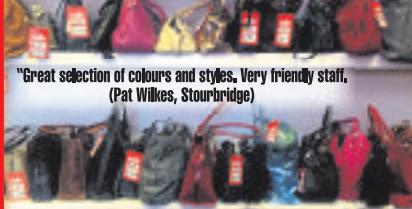
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Good Luck Year Six



Thank you for all of your hard work over the course of this academic year. Remember to always try your best and make the most of the opportunities given to you.

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"My time at Colley Lane has been great. I still remember the day I set foot in this amazing, friendly school. Thank you to all my past teachers and friends who have supported me through the years. I will surely miss Colley Lane!"

Harissa Irum 6L

"During my time at Colley Lane, there have been so many amazing memories! It has been the best experience ever! There has been so much enjoyment in everything we have done in year 6: The trip to Oxford University, all the competitions, Mastery Club, the end of year production, residential and so much more!"

Amy Murton 6O

"Here we are, on the home stretch to High School. I still remember when I was putting my coat on backwards. My time at Colley Lane has brought me so far. Learning new things, trying new sports and best of all, making new friends. I would like to thank all the staff and everyone who has supported me along the way! Thank you!"

Dylan Parsons 6L

"Year 6 - what an incredible year you have had! We are so proud of you for your hard work, achievements and the progress you have made. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching you mature into the lovely year group you are and watching you develop as learners. We know you now have the tools you need to be successful as you continue your journey to High School. Good luck and goodbye, class of 2016!"

Year 6 Staff

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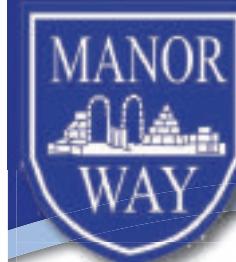
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"I liked Manor Way because the teachers were nice to me and helped us if we were unsure."

Adam

"Manor Way has really helped me to achieve my potential."

Oliver

"I like this school because it gave me so many sporting opportunities."

Leia

Moving to high school will be another step along the life-long learning path. Do let us know about your achievements and keep working hard. We will miss you!

"When you have a problem at Manor Way or at home you can talk to the teachers because they understand if you are upset or feeling uneasy about something."

Natasha



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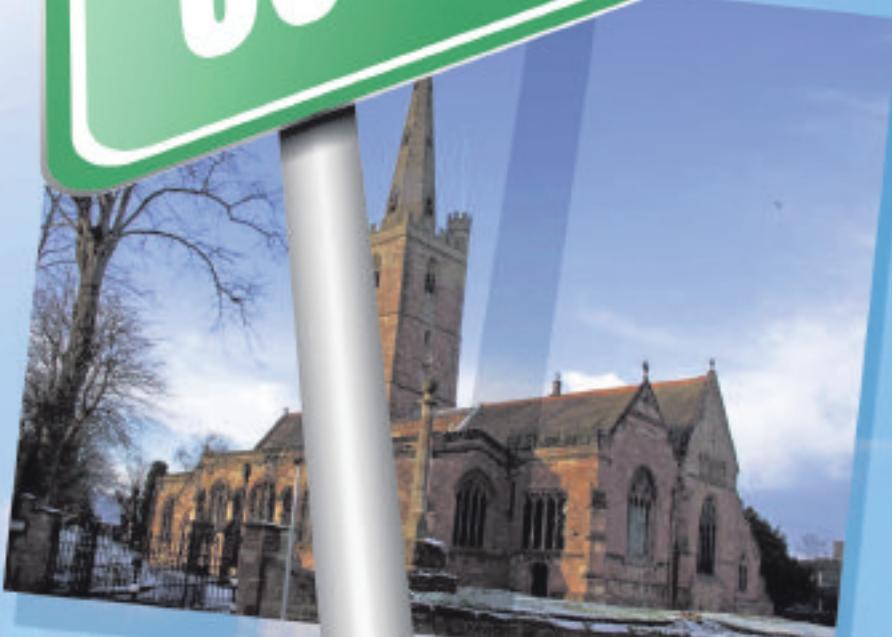
WELCOME to this special supplement which looks back at 30 years of your weekly Chronicle.

For three decades we have brought you up to date with all the news and events in our district, covering Halesowen town centre and the surrounding towns and villages, including Hayley Green, Cradley and Cradley Heath, Blackheath and Rowley Regis.

If it's happened here it's been in, from the revival of Cradley Heathens speedway club to the continued celebration of our proud heritage, reflected in the glory of William Shenstone's beautiful Leasowes Park, and most importantly the stories about you – the people of Halesowen.

And, with a current readership of more than 42,000 people, we endeavour to carry on this tradition. A host of changes are expected to take shape in future years on a local level and we will be here to share the news with you, be it good or bad.

This supplement takes readers back to all that has happened since the Chronicle first landed on your mat, recalls some of the big local and national stories that have made the headlines and the leading figures and businesses that have helped to shape the region, as well as predicting what the future may hold.



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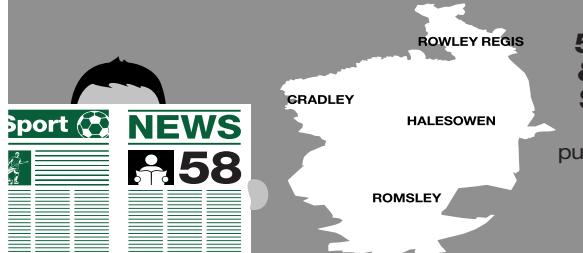
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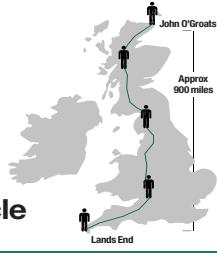


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Years of tears...

FROM environmental disasters to sporting heartache, the end of apartheid and start of the internet, a lot has happened since 1986.

In the year the Chronicles were launched, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded; Diego Maradona broke the hearts of England fans with his Hand Of God goal, and Steve Bull signed for Wolves.

And since then there have been many major events that have happened in the world.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the weekly titles Jamie Brassington looks at some of the world's standout events in that time.

Shockwaves were sent around the world in 1986 when the Chernobyl nuclear plant exploded in former Soviet Union. It was caused by an accident which saw a nuclear reactor explode, sending a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere which affected large parts of Europe. A 30 kilometre exclusion zone was then set

up around the site and patrolled by the Russian military. After three months 31 people had died and 237 suffered acute radiation sickness, most victims being fire and rescue workers.

Many England fans will remember the World Cup of that year because of Diego Maradona's controversial Hand Of God goal. His handball goal was

allowed to stand which helped Argentina beat England 2-1 in the quarter final before they went on to win the tournament.

But a footballing story was soon to start closer to home when Steve Bull signed for Wolves in the same year, going on to score 250 goals in 474 appearances for the club. In 1988 the tragedy of Pan Am Flight 103 took place, where terrorists detonated a bomb over Lockerbie, in Scotland, killing all 270 people on board.

Mandela

The next decade saw the beginning of the worldwide web, which was invented by British engineer Sir Timothy Berners-Lee in 1990. Nelson Mandela was also freed from Victor Verster Prison earlier that year after more than 27 years.

The first half of the decade saw political shifts in Europe. The Soviet Union was dissolved in 1991 and the European Union established in 1993. England and France were connected by rail in 1994 when the Channel tunnel opened in 1994 after seven years of construction. Nel-



Hand of God: Diego Maradona, who broke the hearts of so many football fans

son Mandela became the first black president of South Africa earlier that year, ending apartheid in the country.

Tragedy struck Dunblane Primary School in Scotland in 1996, when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire, killing 16 pupils and one teacher before he committed suicide.

Dolly the sheep became the first mammal to be cloned in July 1996 by British scientists at the University of Edinburgh.

The magic of JK Rowling's Harry Potter was unveiled to the public in July 1997 when her Philosopher's Stone book was published.

Princess Diana was killed in a car crash in the Pont de l'Alma road tunnel in Paris alongside Dodi Al-Fayed in August 1997.

In September 1997, Mother Theresa, a Roman Catholic nun, who dedicated her life to helping the poor and vulnerable around the world, died.

Google was set up in 1998, going on to be one of the most important tools of the early 21st century.



Thousands lined the streets and cried at the funeral procession for Princess Diana

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and cheers

THE Euro currency was launched by the Eurozone on New Year's Day in 1999 to the world's financial markets.

And in the Black Country, Wolverhampton gained city status in 2000.

Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked America in what became known as 9/11 in 2001, killing 2,996 people and injuring more than 6,000, which sparked a 13-year war in Afghanistan.

Britain marked the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 2002. The funeral was held at Westminster Abbey.

The Iraq War began in 2003 following an invasion by the US and its allies, which ended in 2009. And Facebook was invented by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004. It now has 1.59 billion users.

Search

The 7/7 bombings took place in London in July 2005. Carried out by terrorists, it killed 52 people and injured more than 700 on the London Underground and on a bus.

A worldwide search was prompted in 2007 after Madeleine McCann disappeared while on holiday with her family in Portugal.

Barack Obama was elected as the first black president of the United States in 2008, before going on to two terms in the office.

Music icon Michael Jackson died in June 2009 which prompted a global mourning from fans.

Usain Bolt set a new World Record in the Men's 100 metre sprint in August 2009 with a time of 9.58 seconds at the Berlin World Championships.

And Prince William tied the knot with Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey in April 2011.

London hosted the Olympics in 2012 which saw Great Britain come third with a medal

The EU was also in the news back then, and that Royal kiss on the balcony as thousands

haul of 65. That year the Queen also celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.

Coming right up to date, this year Leicester City pulled off one of the greatest achievements in British sporting history winning the Premier League, after going from 5000/1 outsiders at the start of the season.

Club striker Jamie Vardy also broke the Premier League record for scoring in the most consecutive games that season, where he scored in 11 in a row.

Sealed with a kiss – after Prince William and Kate Middleton tied the knot



Celebrating with his famous gesture – Usain Bolt set a new world record in the men's 100 metre sprint in August 2009 with a time of 9.58 seconds



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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



When carnival exploded back onto the scene

FROM lights in the sky, to explosives in the ground, and the return of a carnival.

A variety of stories have hit the headlines in Halesowen in the past three decades.

In the year the Halesowen Chronicle launched in 1986, the town was playing host to an international cricket match.

The International Cricket Champions Trophy was being held in England that year, and as part of the one-day tournament Hong Kong and Canada battled it out at Seth Somers Park in Halesowen, with the latter nation going on to win by four wickets.

A sporting triumphant closer to home also took place in 1986.

Halesowen Town FC, also known as The Yeltz, became the second team to win the FA Vase Trophy in consecutive seasons following their victory in 1986. The team had also won in 1985.

Revived

Many residents will have fond memories of the Halesowen Carnival, held on Huntingdon Park, which closed down in 1986. The event was revived after almost 30 years in 2015 and was held at Highfields Park.

This came after council officials said pathways in Huntingdon Park would be unsuitable to hold moving vehicles and organisers faced a race against time to set up the carnival.

Another popular public event held in the town annually has been Halesowen's Victorian Market, where stalls and live entertainment have lined the streets. Last year it was replaced with the Black Country Fair by event organisers Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

A paranormal event happened one evening near Christmas time in 2008 after dozens of bright lights in the sky



Back again - Halesowen Carnival, which closed down in 1986, was revived almost 30 years later in 2015

were reported in the West Midlands. In Halesowen eyewitnesses said 70 bright circular objects were spotted. Residents said despite Birmingham International airport being not too far away they were not passenger planes.

Second World War grenades were found by a Halesowen gardener in 2010 after he had been digging on Belbroughton Road.

Ian Cooke accidentally shattered a buried gas canister with his shovel before a bomb squad from the Royal Logistics were called and found another 23 grenades.



Another popular public event held in the town annually has been Halesowen's Victorian Market



Halesowen Town FC - The Yeltz - became the second team to win the FA Vase Trophy in consecutive seasons



How Jordanne served up a new record

HALESOWEN'S tennis ace Jordanne Whiley became the first British woman to win a wheelchair grand slam singles title last year.

Aged 23 at the time, she beat her long-time friend and doubles partner Yui Kamiji in the US Open women's wheelchair singles final in New York in September.

Jordanne summed up the historic victory, after winning 6-4 0-6 6-1 in the final, by declaring: "That moment when all your dreams come true." She was awarded an MBE from the Princess Royal for her sporting triumphs in October.

Invested

Jordanne, who has bone brittle disease, has previously won the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open doubles crowns with sporting partner Yui Kamiji from Japan. She was also named among the nation's most influential people for 2016.

Prime Minister David Cameron paid a visit to Halesowen College in 2014 to announce a huge investment and vowed it would mark the dawn of a new era. A total of £3 million was to be invested in an Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology Skills Centre at Coombs Wood Business Park, part of the college.

It was intended to provide 250 higher level apprenticeships in IT, laboratory technician, electrical engineering and business/account skills to meet the needs of employers.

A range of leading companies were also lined up to work at the centre including Exova, Eurofins Scientific and Halesowen-based Sterling Power Group. During the visit Mr



Going for the shot – Jordanne Whiley MBE last year became the first British woman to win a wheelchair grand slam singles title

Cameron said: "We are seeing re-industrialisation in Great Britain. I will never forget visiting the Jaguar Land Rover engine plant in Wolverhampton but this is also a statement that we are going to have small and medium enterprises in the whole supply chain, manufacturing components and parts."

Another investment is the restoration of the historic walled garden lying in the heart of The Leasowes.

It was bought by charity Halesowen Abbey Trust in November 2014 with the aim of restoring the site to its former glory, which is now taking place. The garden has been in existence for more than 240 years and covers around two acres.

It is part of the Grade One listed landscape created by the poet William Shenstone between 1743 and 1763.

Project co-ordinator Mick Freer, aged 71, from Halesowen, said: "It is a very historic site, it is very important and has created something in Halesowen which people are taken aback by. The project has received immense

public support and I'm delighted we have left something as a legacy now which will outlive us."

The Walled Garden now has more than 110 fruit trees, many of which people have sponsored to remember a loved one. There are also around 1,000 volunteers on the project.

Oversaw

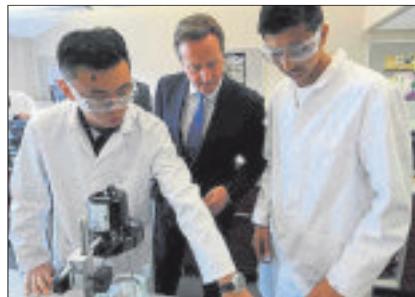
He said plans have been drawn up to build a visitor centre within the walls which could cost upward of £1m. He oversaw the buying of the site in 2014 and the fundraising.

A few miles away, the Merry Hill shopping centre opened in Brierley Hill in 1985. It was built on the old Round Oak Steelworks site and has become the major shopping destination for people in the Black Country and wider region.

Merry Hill's arrival symbolised Dudley moving away from its industrial past. When plans were announced to build the shopping centre they were met with opposition, but those days seem like a bygone era.



Merry Hill's arrival symbolised a move away from the area's industrial past



Prime Minister David Cameron paid a visit to Halesowen College in 2014

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



Thanks to volunteers the glory of the historic walled garden in the Leasowes is also being brought back to life



Halesowen's quest for honours in this year's Britain in Bloom contest has been given a boost by the addition of a narrowboat named The Blooming Boat

Vital BID to woo visitors

WE have delved into the past, so now it's time to look ahead. So what does the future really hold for Halesowen?

The town's carnival has been brought back again after a near 30-year absence, allowing the people of Halesowen to enjoy the community event once again.

Students and businesses will benefit from the £3 million investment of the technological Coombs Wood Business Park, part of Halesowen College, which will allow students to gain the knowledge and skills needed ready for work and for businesses to use the facilities.

Volunteers

The glory of the historic walled garden in the Leasowes is also being brought back to life thanks to the efforts and fundraising of a local charity and 100 volunteers.

And one aspect that has proved an exciting topic with business leaders in the town is the proposed Business Improvement District for Halesowen, which will see vital funds set aside for traders to spend on the area.

It will have to receive the backing of the majority of traders first before it can be launched. However, if it does get the green light, money can be invested back into the community.

Leader of Halesowen's proposed BID, Barry Wheeler, said: "Hopefully the BID will go ahead, it would make a huge impact for the town."

"It will help out existing businesses, encourage new ones and will help to look at more security in the town."

"It will make Halesowen a more attractive place to visit. We want to find out what puts people off from visiting the town so we can see what to improve and/or change."

"The BID will also help promote community events, alongside the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club who organise the fun run and road race."

A BID sees business within a certain area pay additional tax to fund projects within the boundaries of the district. If successful it will be the first BID to be set up in the Dudley area.

In the wider Black Country region, there are big plans for new rail services and a 'garden city' which will both cost more than a billion pounds to fund.

And attractions such as Merry Hill, Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum are set to be revamped and expanded.

Transport chiefs last year tabled £6.5 billion transport plans for the West Midlands which could see areas in the Black Country have train services once again.

Bosses say commuters could travel to three main towns or cities within 45 minutes in peak morning times. This would also see more modern buses, featuring leather seats, wi-fi connections and charging points for mobile phones.

A large investment planned for the Black Country is a £6 billion 'garden city'. The ambitious scheme was unveiled earlier this year to create a city around Wolverhampton - which would stretch to Lye and Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge.



Leader of Halesowen's proposed BID, Barry Wheeler, hopes to attract more people

to create a city around Wolverhampton - which would stretch to Lye and Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge.

It would be the largest 'garden city' in the country and be built with open spaces and greenery in mind.

Planners identified in spring more than 500 sites for the 45,000 new homes of the 'garden city'. The scheme will cover more than 3,700 acres across 30 towns.

The popular shopping destination of Merry Hill is set to see expansions and a revamp, with the number of shops being reduced but being of larger size.

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Summer is here and everyone starts to become body conscious, but most of us will stick to what we know and are unsure of trying something new.

Many conversations that are had with new members of Gymophobics start in this way...

Q. I've tried lots of gyms and don't like them, why is Gymophobics so different?

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Q. Can it work for anyone?

A. Yes! It doesn't matter whether it's fitness, weight loss or just toning that you're looking for, as we write individual programmes for every member, their desires, strengths, health and previous exercise is all taken into consideration to ensure that it is the right programme for them using air resistance weights.

Q. Is it safe as I've never done weights before?

A. Air resistance weights are very safe on your joints but more importantly, there is always an instructor with you to ensure that technique is correct and we always do a full induction to address any health issues prior to using the circuit, updated every 10 weeks for changes or of course, improvement!

Q. So do I just come and shape my figure there then move on to a 'proper' gym?

A. Not at all! Our programmes are changed every 10 weeks therefore progression is never ending and we have members with us from when we opened nearly 4 years ago (in Halesowen) and they still find the programmes challenging. It's also such a fun and happy place to be, an experience not normally associated with gyms!

Q. Is there lots of jumping and running around?

A. As we don't work particularly on the cardio vascular system then no. We do encourage walking to keep the heart healthy but getting hot and sweaty is not our idea of a workout here at Gymophobics.

Q. My concern is that I work full time, have children and am not sure that I can fit it in.

A. A 30 minute session 3 times a week is all you need to drop a dress size in 10 weeks and with our extended opening hours and appointment system to ensure your time slot, everyone can get the figure that they want with limited time available.

Q. And you can help me with my diet too?

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Q. This all sounds fab, I think my mum should come too!

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The curves of Linda Evangelista were replaced by the lean look of Kate Moss

When curves were given the boot

AS things have been since time immemorial, the fashion trends that have emerged, disappeared and re-emerged over the last three decades have been heavily dictated by music, culture and subculture.

When people ran to pick up their copy of the Chronicle from the doormat in the 80s, they did so in the kind of bright and sharp heels that Madonna might wear.

Or in huge-tongued, hip hop-influenced trainers. In the days before yellow smiley faces were sent via WhatsApp, they were plastered on the front of T-shirts, clashing with some of the brightest and loudest wind breakers and shell suits the world has ever seen.

Off-shoulder chunky jumpers in wild, neon geometric patterns led the mainstream, while the post-punk underworld brought forth grunge rock, and a more muted colour palette. As synthesisers began to give way to guitars, the world began to change, not only what it was listening to, but what it wore.

By the time we arrived head-first into the 90s, we were more inclined to slip on a pair of Converse baseball boots than a pair of neon-pointed pumps. The



Kirsty Bosley takes us through the fashion years – good and bad

healthy-looking curves of models like Linda Evangelista and Christy Turlington were replaced by the 'heroin chic' slender, boyish forms of models like Kate Moss and Jaime King. Suddenly, the gaunt look was in and it wasn't just the models getting thinner. Everything else lost volume too, backcombing was out and hair irons were in.

Dominate

Flouncy, playful blouses were packed off to the charity shop, and more slender lines became a fashion standard. Throughout this time, sportswear continued to dominate the wardrobes of men everywhere, with brands like Kappa and Ellesse joining Adidas and Reebok in the cool stakes.

As the 90s progressed, bands like Slipknot and Korn influenced the 'alternative' community. Baggy jeans with chains and all black clothing brought back that 80s goth vibe. But pop music made



The Spice Girls summed up some of the bizarre 'fashions'

the most memorable impact. Boy band members made curtains and highlights cool, and check shirts and denim jackets remained a bloke staple. One of the most influential acts of the 90s was The Spice Girls, and for females, the rise of Girl Power dictated the next few years of fashion. Sky-scraping platform shoes were a must.

Jelly shoes had their moment in the sun, as did chokers, Grolsch bottle tops and very distressed jeans. In the noughties, low-slung cargo pants with pointless rib-

bons, belly-flashing skinny vests and gypsy skirts came to the fore, as did wearing ties on top of, well, anything. In the 2010s, Chinos became cool, jeans got much skinnier and, sadly, no massive fashion-forward steps were taken. It was a bad year for fashion.

These days, what we wear is a rotation of things from before, a revival of 70s-style flares and high-waisted mum jeans, floral prints, rich browns and moccasins. Let's hope shell suits stay firmly locked away in the retro closet!

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Mobiles just got smaller . . .



Even actor Michael Douglas had, what was referred to as, a 'brick'



Most mobile phones now will fit in the palm of your hand

IF there is one item that has arguably changed our lives more than any other in the last few decades, it is the mobile phone.

And since they came on the scene in 1973, they have gone through big transformations.

It wasn't until the 80s and 90s that they became more common, but if you were to place a handset of today alongside one from 30 years ago, there would be a major difference. A phone in the 1980s would have an antenna and maybe need two hands to hold.

Internet

Today there would be no antenna, the phone would fit in the palm of your hand, and it would have a touch screen. Plus you would also have the latest technology – apps, maps, GPS, on-the-move internet and a multi-mega-pixel camera.

With the marvel of being able to speak and communicate on the move 24/7, there is the internet, allowing people to communicate all over the world in seconds.

Although the worldwide-web was born in 1991, it has taken more than a decade for it to take over everyday life. Now it is a vital tool to everyday living.



... but prices bigger

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Burton Motors is a lady driver friendly garage. Julie Burt (owner) fully understands how daunting it can be in what is predominantly a male environment. With this in mind she welcome's all customers as she would expect to be treated herself.



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And just for the record

MUSIC in the 1980s saw new sounds enter the charts.

As rock continued to enjoy a wide audience, new genres, such as dance music and new wave, arrived on the scene.

Disco fell out of fashion in the decade's early years but Euro disco and dance-pop were to become more popular.

But in the Black Country, rock was still dominant. The region played an important role in seeing bands become successful.

Former nightclub and live music venue JB's, in Dudley, had local bands and acts from further afield play there.

As Jonn Penney, lead singer of Ned's Atomic Dustbin, put it, if you

won the crowd over at the club, you were onto a winner. The likes of Blur, Joy Division, UB40, The Police, The Pretenders and the Manic Street Preachers performed at the venue.

The Sex Pistols played there under the name The Spots following a ban by Wolverhampton Council.

Queen also wanted to play there but asked too much money to perform.

Ned's Atomic Dustbin, formed in Stourbridge in 1987, was among the Black Country bands branching out into indie rock which became popular in the UK and US in the 1980s.

"Indie was short for independent, which meant people doing their own thing," said Jonn.

"Indie music was everyone who was not on a major record label."

Other indie bands from the area were Pop Will Eat Itself and The Wonder Stuff, both formed in Stourbridge in 1986.

In April 1991 Jonn's band released its album 'God Fodder', which reached number four in the UK Top 40 albums chart.

"Rock music in the area has always been a love of no-nonsense music.

"I guess Slade started the trend, the 'get on with it no-nonsense' music. There was no posing, it was all about letting the art do the talking.

"They took the Black Country to the corners of the planet which no-one else had done.

Robert Plant also took Wolverhampton to places in the world where no-one knew of the city."



The Sex Pistols played at JB's under the name The Spots following a ban by Wolverhampton Council

JONN PENNEY:

Lead singer of Ned's Atomic Dustbin
As promotions officer for the Wolverhampton Civic halls Jonn has experience of many music genres. He says tastes in music have changed over the past three decades and rock may not be as pivotal in the Black Country as 30 years ago.

But he added: "Rock in the Black Country is never going to die. And Black Country rock fans are the most loyal of the loyal."

And he is glad to see the surprise return of vinyl with youngsters of today.

"Kids today are different to kids in my age," said Jonn. "They don't go out as much and are exposed to far less culture and art.

"It's a completely different culture but that is not knocking them. Rock music is so much rooted in live performance.

"I would have never imagined today kids would appreciate a piece with artwork (vinyl) – it's great to see."



Jonn Penney – glad to see vinyl back



Mike Hamblett – so many changes

MIKE HAMBLETT: Owner of the Robin 2 in Bilton

"The live music venues in the Black Country and Birmingham have changed over the years," says Mike. "What used to be a pub venue would now be The Institute in Birmingham.

"And places like Club Lafayette, Wolverhampton and JB's Dudley are no longer with us."

Acts that have played at The Robin 2 recently include American female soul group The Three Degrees and Snakecharmer – made up of two original Whitesnake members.

Mike says: "There only used to be The Robin, JB's in Dudley and a couple in Birmingham, Club Lafayette, The Coach & Horses pub in Hately Heath, the Barrel Organ in Digbeth and the Railway in Curzon Street, Birmingham.

"Now there are lots."

TOP TEN HITS

30 YEARS AGO (July 1, 1986)

1. Wham! – The Edge Of Heaven
2. Madonna – Papa Don't Preach
3. The Housemartins – Happy Hour
4. Owen Paul – My Favourite Waste Of Time
5. Nu Shooz – I Can't Wait
6. Amazulu – Too Good To Be Forgotten
7. A-Ha – Hunting High And Low
8. Bucks Fizz – New Beginning (Mamba Seyra)
9. Bananarama – Venus
10. Doctor And The Medics – Spirit In The Sky

20 YEARS AGO (July 1, 1996)

1. Baddiel/Skinner/Lightning Seeds – Three Lions
2. Fugees – Killing Me Softly
3. Peter Andre ft Bubbler Ranx – Mysterious Girl
4. Kula Shaker – Tattva
5. Celine Dion – Because You Loved Me
6. Ash – Oh Yeah
7. Reel 2 Real – Jazz It Up
8. Livin' Joy – Don't Stop Movin'
9. Alison Limerick – Where Love Lives
10. Mariah Carey – Always Be My Baby

10 YEARS AGO (July 1, 2006)

1. Nelly Furtado – Maneater
2. Shakira ft Wyclef Jean – Hips Don't Lie
3. Sandi Thom – I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker
4. Muse – Supermassive Black Hole
5. The Automatic – Monster
6. Sergio Mendes/Black Eyed Peas – Mas Que Nada
7. Infernal – From Paris To Berlin
8. Lostprophets – Rooftops (A Liberation Broadcast)

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Protection at Aremco's core



The company makes a range of vehicle access restriction products



Aremco is a fourth generation manufacturing company



Overhead parking barriers are just a part of a broad range

Safety and security are at the heart of everything that is made by Black Country business Aremco Products.

The fourth generation specialist manufacturing firm is part of H Case and Son which has been in Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, since 1908.

Its security access products are sold across the UK with the original Aremco car parking posts designed and developed in the mid 1970s by Netherton-born Roderick Case, whose daughter Carolyn Blair is now MD.

Aremco Products makes a growing range of state-of-the-art parking control, vehicle access restriction and street furniture products at its 25,000 sq ft site, which includes the factory and offices.

Develop

"We have continued to extend, develop and improve the range over the years from my father's original designs to meet changing market demand."

"We supply to both the domestic and industrial markets. Our customers include all kinds of businesses and local authorities.

"Anyone with a car park is a potential customer and we can help with anything from a caravan park or leisure centre to a big industrial site. Many of our products are recommended by architects and insurance companies," said Stourbridge-born Carolyn.

She is the great granddaughter of the H Case company's founder Harry Case and is very proud of the company's history.

"Harry started trading hardware from the back of a barrow in 1878 and went on to set up the factory where we have been ever since."

Visitors are welcomed to the site's main reception from Monday to Thursday between 9am and 4pm and there is a showroom area

where customers can see what the Aremco range, mainly made on the site, offers.

"As well as our posts, which include fold down, removable and telescopic designs, we make car park gates, crash barrier and height restriction barriers.

Security

"We can advise on perimeter security and safety measures to protect buildings."

"All forms of protection for security and safety are what we are about."

"When customers come in to see us we can discuss their individual requirements and we

also do site visits. We are also happy to offer bespoke solutions to meet the requirements of both the commercial and domestic markets.

Aremco offers very competitive prices," explained Carolyn. The business also offer installation services for customers within up to a 70-mile radius of its Cradley Heath base, but will travel further for major orders.

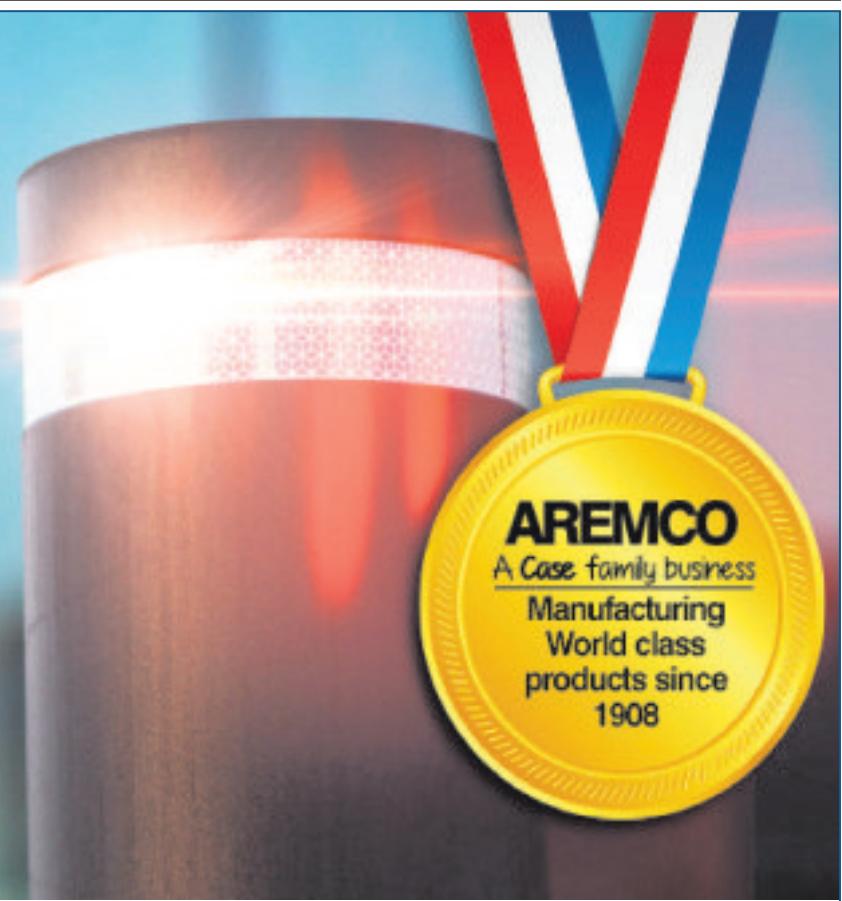
"We get a lot of orders through our website and from directories, but the bulk of our business is from agents selling on our behalf around the country," added Carolyn.

Aremco Products can be contacted on 01384 568566 and its website is at www.aremco-products.co.uk

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fast theticket

Rhythm is a dancer

Just what makes
moves such a hit?
See Page 35



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MON 18 JUL, 2, 22 AUG, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• See Flying Scotsman in steam at Shildon (JUL)
• Isle of Arran tour & Loch Lomond Cruise

SAT 23, 30 JUL, 24 SEP

HOLY ISLAND, BAMBURGH & NORTHUMBERLAND



5 DAYS FROM £199.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Britannia Hotel, Woolington
• Includes visits to Bamburgh, Seahouses & Holy Island, Berwick on Tweed and Cheviot Hills

MON 18 JUL, 8, 22 AUG, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

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Making of Harry Potter



2 DAYS £119.95
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 20 AUG, 3, 24 SEP, 8 OCT, 12, 19, 26 NOV

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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Trecam Hotel
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MON 11, 18, 25 JUL, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUG, 5, 12 SEP

TORQUAY & EDEN PROJECT



4/5 DAYS FROM £179.95
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Seascapes/Beaumont Hotel
• Includes Beatles Tour & Cavern Club, Mersey River Cruise & Visit to Chester

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5 DAYS MON 18, 25 JUL, 8, 15, 22 AUG

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Listings for July 1 - 7

Lionel Richie



Thursday, 8pm

Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

Hello! If it's this Motown legend you're looking for, the former Commodore will be performing his hits All Night Long for his still-adoring fans. Support from Corinne Bailey Rae. Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Mamma Mia!



Until September 3, various times, B'ham Hippodrome

The feel-good musical set on a sunny Greek island and packed with ABBA hits is the Hippodrome's big summer show and continues to draw crowds after opening this week. Visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Danny Bhoy



Saturday, 7pm

Slade Rooms, W'ton

The globe-trotting Scottish comedian will be giving an audience in Wolverhampton a preview of his new 70-minute show before he jets off to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Visit wolvescivic.co.uk

Heartbeat



Tuesday to Saturday, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Grand Theatre, W'ton

A play version of the popular long-running ITV show about police in 1960s rural Yorkshire with David Lonsdale (right) and Steven Blakeley returning. Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

POP

Kick Up The 80s: 1980s Tribute

Tonorrow at 7pm, The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

ROCK & METAL

Seyes: Yes Tribute

Sun at 8.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Heart

Sun at 7.30pm - 10pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Just Floyd: Pink Floyd Tribute

Sun at 1pm, £8 - £10 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Supreme Queen: Tribute

Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Underground Empire

Tomorrow at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Catapult Club Feat.

Let Vengeance Rise Thu at 6.30pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Millbrook

Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

The Springsteen Sessions: Bruce Springsteen Tribute

Tonight at 8.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Electus

Wed at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Pure Purple: Deep Purple Tribute

Tomorrow at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Pioneers Of The Synthesisers

Thu at 8.45pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Paws

Mon at 7.30pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

JAZZ, FUNK, SOUL, BLUES & MOTOWN

Lionel Richie: All The Hits

Thu at 7pm, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Jazz House

Sun at 5.30pm - 7.30pm, Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Young Pilgrims

Tonight - tomorrow at 8.30pm - 2am, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Buddy Guy

Tonight at 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL

Gawain Hewitt: Beneath The Waves

Sun at 7.30pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

BICS 2015/16 Brant International Piano Competition, Birmingham: The Final

Tomorrow at 3pm, Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Music For Youth National Festival

Tue at 9am, Wed at 9am, Thu at 9am, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Star Wars & Beyond - A Space Spectacular

Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FESTIVALS

On The Edge 2016

Sun - Thu, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

CLUBBING

Soul Fusion Presents: The Unda-Vibes Session Live

Tomorrow at 10.30pm, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Propaganda

Tonight - tomorrow at 10.30pm - 3.30am, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

COMEDY

Hardeep Singh Kohli: Preview

Tonight at 8pm, £13 - £14 mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Edinburgh Preview - Lucy Porter & Carey Marx

Wed at 7.30pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Jim Jefferies: The Freedumb Tour

Wed at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel

Thu at 8pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy

Tonight at 7pm - 8.15pm, Tomorrow at 7pm - 8.15pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Saturday Night Comedy

Tue at 8pm - 10.30pm, £ Risa Highlight, 259-262 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HF. Call 0121 6324936

Danny Bhoy

Tomorrow at 7pm, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Brush

Mon at 7.30pm, £10 Atrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

THEATRE

Gangsta Granny

Tonight at 7pm, Tomorrow at 10.30am, 2.30pm, 7pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Brush

Sun at 11am, 2.30pm, Mon at 10.30am, 1pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

D

Heartbeat



Saturday, 7pm

Slade Rooms, W'ton

The globe-trotting Scottish comedian will be giving an audience in Wolverhampton a preview of his new 70-minute show before he jets off to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Visit wolvescivic.co.uk

Rehearsal For Murder

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01902 281281

Swap!

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

M

Musical Youth Theatre Stafford: Bugsy Malone

Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Best Thing

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Mamma Mia!

Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28 - £60 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

OTHER EVENTS

Contemporary Craft Markets

Sun at 11am, Free mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Artforum

Wed at 4.30pm - 6.30pm, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Young Artists

Tonight at 1pm - 3pm, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Live Your Legacy National Cheer & Dance Championships

Sat and Sun, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Currys PC World's Ultimate Home Of Football In Birmingham

Tonight at 9pm - 11pm, Tomorrow at 9pm - 11pm, Sun at 9pm - 11pm, Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham, B5 4BU. Call 0121 632 1500

Wine Tasting At Bohemia

Thu at 7.30pm, Bohemia, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6JE. Call 0121 471 2713

Kings Heath Food Assembly

Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Celebrating Irish music and dance

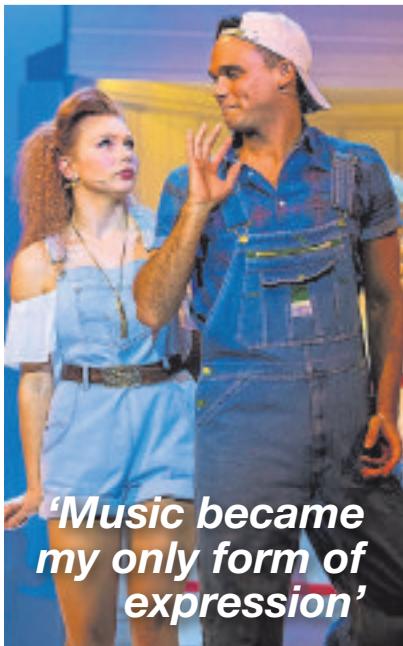


Some of the Rhythm of the Dance singers and musicians in action during a show dedicated to popular Irish culture.

A SHOW which celebrates the rich history of Ireland and the art of Irish music and dance is at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday.

Grand Theatre on Monday.
Fans can look forward to a variety of routines from the disciplined Celtic Step to the ancient Sean Nos (old style) dance in a show featuring 22 dancers.

The Grand's Scott Bird said



'Music became my only form of expression'

Robin 2 tributes to rock legends

IT'S a big weekend of classic rock tribute shows at Bilston's Robin 2 venue, starting tomorrow (Friday) with Scottish tribute to Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, The Springsteen Sessions.

Pure Purple presents a tribute to Deep Purple in a double bill with Lovehunter's Whitesnake celebration on Saturday night.

Then on Sunday Just Floyd give a three hour performance of Pink Floyd classics starting at 1pm. The prog rock continues that evening with the SeYes performance dedicated to the music of Yes.

For tickets see therobin.co.uk
or call 01902 401211.



TV comic will be returning to club

TV comic Patrick Monahan is returning to headline a pub's comedy club in Stourbridge for the third time in two years.

Mr Monahan, who has appeared on Show Me The Funny, Celebrity Squares and The Paul O'Grady Show, will be back at Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club tomorrow (Friday). The popular Teessider headlined the first Fitz of Laughter show at Katie Fitzgerald's nearly two years ago and returned last July for a one-hour preview of his touring show The Disco Years.

Tickets are £10 at www.skiddle.com/e/12557353 or by calling compere Wayne Beese on 07507 015397. Doors open 8pm.



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CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

The Getaway Car (BBC1, 6.40pm) Dermot O'Leary takes five duos to the South African countryside, where he puts their nerves, driving and communication skills, and ultimately their relationships to the test in a series of high-octane car-based challenges. The teams must negotiate Hazard Highway, Off-Road Rage, Drive-Thru and Getaway Chase, with the most successful pair receiving a chance to pit their talents behind the wheel against those of Top Gear's resident stunt-driver the Stig. Should they triumph, the winners will claim a £10,000 cash prize and the title of Getaway Champions.

In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:

6.40 Regional News; Weather. 6.50 TBA

7.40 The National Lottery; In It To Win It

8.30 The Muskeeters 9.25-10.15

Casualty 10.35-11.20 MOTO: Euro 2016

Highlights

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) 12.00 BBC News. 12.10 Wimbledon 2016. Further live coverage from the All England Club.

6.20 BBC News.

6.30 Regional Programme.

6.40 The Getaway Car. Dermot O'Leary takes five duos to the South African countryside, where he puts their nerves, driving and communication skills, and ultimately their relationships to the test in a series of high-octane car-based challenges. The teams must negotiate Hazard Highway, Off-Road Rage, Drive-Thru and Getaway Chase, with the most successful pair receiving a chance to pit their talents behind the wheel against those of Top Gear's resident stunt-driver the Stig. Should they triumph, the winners will claim a £10,000 cash prize and the title of Getaway Champions.

7.30 MOTO: Euro 2016 Live. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of this evening's fixture at the Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux, where the first place in the second semi-final will be confirmed. The winners of groups C and E could well be involved in this fixture, which means there is every chance that Germany will be looking to continue their outstanding record in European Championship finals. Should they still be in the tournament, they will also be aiming to hold two major titles at the same time, having been victorious in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.05 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.35 Live at the Apollo; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.20 Film: Old School. (2003)

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.55 BBC News.

In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:

6.40 Regional News; Weather. 6.50 TBA

7.40 The National Lottery; In It To Win It

8.30 The Muskeeters 9.25-10.15

Casualty 10.35-11.20 MOTO: Euro 2016

Highlights

BBC2

6.10 The Women's Football Show. (R) 6.40 Film: Angel on My Shoulder. (1946) Fantasy, starring Paul Muni. 8.25 Film: In Which We Serve. (1942) The survivors of a maritime disaster recall their adventures as they climb to the wireless. Second World War drama, starring Noah Beery, John Mills and Richard Attenborough. 10.15 Talking Tennis. 11.00 Wimbledon 2016. Day six gets under way at the All England Club.

12.10 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 1.30 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) 2.30 Wimbledon 2016. Further live coverage on day six of the third Grand Slam tournament of the year at the All England Club, featuring the third-round matches in the singles draw. Sue Barker presents.

7.30 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches were due to reach a conclusion. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Roger Federer and Andy Murray progressing to the fourth round with respective victories over Sam Groth and Andreas Seppi, while Petra Kvitova's title defence ended against Jelena Jankovic.

9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. Question master Stephen Fry continues the comedy panel quiz's exploration of subjects beginning with the letter L. As he asks a range of fiendish questions on the topic of ladies and gents. Joining regular panelist Alan Davies are stand-up comedian Ross Noble, Australian author Kathy Lette and comedienne and Great British Bake Off presenter Sue Perkins.

10.15 Versailles. Philippe returns from war a changed man, while the debauched urges of dissident duke Cassel must be pandered to by Madame de Montpensier; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.15 Best of Glastonbury 2016. Another chance to see some of the highlights from this year's festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset, including many of the headline artists, and a selection of bespoke acoustic sets.

1.15 MOTO: Euro 2016 Match Replay.

2.55 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

(PG/169) 12.45-3.00 Jackpot247

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Oddbods. (R) 7.35 Numberblocks Are Go. (R) 7.45 Go! Go! Master of Signs. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 12.20 TV News. 1.30 Big Box Little Box. (R) 2.00 Doc Martin. (R) 3.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. 5.30 You've Been Framed! (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Catchphrase. New series. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking contestants Bianca Davies, Tony Neill, Cowell and Jo Atkins to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.

7.15 Euro 2016. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of this evening's fixture at the Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux, where the first place in the second semi-final will be confirmed. The winners of groups C and E could well be involved in this fixture, which means there is every chance that Germany will be looking to continue their outstanding record in European Championship finals. Should they still be in the tournament, they will also be aiming to hold two major titles at the same time, having been victorious in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Pop Gold. (R)

11.35 Film: Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) Comedy.

1.10 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:

12.29-12.30 Local Weather 5.30 All Star Family Fortunes (R) 6.15 ITV Regional News And Weather 6.30 TV News And Weather 6.45 You've Been Framed! 7.15 Catchphrase (R) 8.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 10.00 ITV News And Weather 10.15 Euro 2016 Highlights

11.15 Film: Carry On Again Doctor (PG/169) 12.45-3.00 Jackpot247

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Salvage SOS. (R) 6.40 Salvage SOS. (R) 7.05 Motor Sport: Scottish Rally. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 The Big Bang Theory. 10.00 Car SOS. 11.00 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. 4.15 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. 5.15 Channel 4 News. 5.30 Formula 1; Austrian Grand Prix. Qualifying Highlights.

7.00 Goggleprogs. Young TV viewers watch a range of programmes, from entertainment shows to documentaries and classic films, as well as up-to-the-minute news reports. In London, childhood friends Shuaib and Janai love watching cartoons together. In Birmingham, mates Edie and Teanna are both in the school book club. Edie's dad is a 50-year-old car enthusiast and her four-year-old brother Hanson, who wants to be a Formula 1 racing driver. In this edition, the Goggleprogs give their honest and hilarious views on Simply Nigella. The Lion King and Made in Chelsea. (R)

8.00 Film: Avatar. (2009) A proargic soldier uses technology that allows him to control a genetically engineered body on a mission to a dangerous jungle world. His assignment is to infiltrate an alien tribe on behalf of a corrupt mining corporation, which wants to drive them from their land. He comes to sympathise with the natives, and helps them fight back against his employers. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang.

11.10 Film: Wanted. (2008) A man joins a secret society of superpowered assassins that kills people destined to commit acts of evil. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.

1.15 Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Blackberry's in Plainfield, New Jersey. (R) 2.05 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. The McQueens prepare for Pete's trial, and Reenie lets Cleo down when she goes missing. Nathan held Holly support, and in the court room, Cleo's honesty is questioned. (R) 4.10 Posh Pawnbrokers. (R) 5.10 Fifteen to One. (R)

8.00 NCIS. DiNozzo teams up with his girlfriend, AT-1 agent Zoe Keates, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a US Marine in what initially seems like a simple road accident. The team reveals the dead man did indeed die due to a broken neck sustained during a crash, but someone shot at him first. As DiNozzo and Keates pursue their inquiry, they discover the victim's death is connected to a controversial ATF plan to place traceable firearms in the criminal system, and then follow them to the heads of crime organisations.

9.55 5 News Weekend. 10.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fifth and final one-day international in the series, which took place at The SSE SWALEC in Cardiff.

8.00 NCIS. An Iran war veteran asks Gibbs to investigate the killing of another former marine, who was murdered while working as a lorry driver, so Ziva hits the road to catch the culprit. (R)

8.55 NCIS. DiNozzo teams up with his girlfriend, AT-1 agent Zoe Keates, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a US Marine in what initially seems like a simple road accident. The team reveals the dead man did indeed die due to a broken neck sustained during a crash, but someone shot at him first. As DiNozzo and Keates pursue their inquiry, they discover the victim's death is connected to a controversial ATF plan to place traceable firearms in the criminal system, and then follow them to the heads of crime organisations.

9.55 5 News Weekend. 10.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

11.05 Danielle Westbrook: In Therapy. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Big Brother. (R) 4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 4.50 Divine Designs. (R) 5.20 House Doctor. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide 8.00 The Last Seabird Summer? 9.00 Film: The Hypnotist (2012) 10.55 Storyville: Smash & Grab – The Story of the Pink Panthers 12.55 Top of the Pops: 1982 1.35 Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO 2.15 Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park 3.55 Close

ITV

11.15 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 11.45 You've Been Framed!

12.15 Catchphrase Celebrity Special 1.20

Film: Rumour Has It (2005) 2.20 FYI Daily 2.25 Film: Rumour Has It (2005)

3.15 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 4.15 FYI Daily 2.25 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 5.15 Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) 6.05 FYI Daily 5.10 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 8.00 Love Island: The Weekly Hotlist 10.00

Celebrity Juice 10.50 Family Guy 12.20 American Dad! 12.50 Film: Friends with Kids (2011) 1.50 FYI Daily 1.55 Film: Friends with Kids (2011) 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV4

12.55 Film: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) 2.55 Midsomer Murders 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Lewis

10.00 A Touch of Frost 12.18 The Jury 1.10 City Lights 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen

2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of the opening stage of this year's race. 4.30 Pawn Stars 7.00 Tour de France

Highlights 8.00 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) 9.00 FYI Daily 9.05 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) 9.45 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) 10.10 FYI Daily 10.55 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)

12.30 Motorway Patrol 1.00 Tour de France Highlights 2.00 The Wine Show 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV4

12.30 Baby Daddy 1.30 Meilissa & Joey 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.00 The Goldbergs 6.00 The Big Bang Theory

9.00 Film: This Is 40 (2012) 11.40 Gogglebox 1.50 The Inbetweeners 2.50 Rude Tube 3.45 The New Normal

Film4

11.00 Arizona Raiders (1965) 1.00 Bandslam (2009) 3.10 Carry On Beyond

1975) 4.45 Johnny English Reborn (2011) 7.00 About a Boy (2002) 9.00 Speed (1994) 11.15 The Counsellor (2013) 1.30 Psycho (1960) 3.50 Close

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CHOICE



China's Forgotten Emperor (Channel 4, 8pm)

Documentary about Wu Zetian, the only woman to become emperor of China. Wu Zetian ruled China in the last years of the seventh century, and has always had a reputation as a brutal tyrant. However, recent archaeological finds have shed new light on her reign, revealing a gifted politician who shaped her country into a military, economic and cultural superpower. The programme examines tombs, palaces and treasures from her dynasty that shed new light on her skills as a leader but also on the violence of her regime.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** The Muslim Pound. **1.45** Hunted (2014) Part 2. **2.45** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.45** Animal Super Parents. (R) **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.05** News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. John Craven explores Pembrokeshire's boating heritage and learns a few sea shanties, while Helen Skelton forages for seaweed on Freshwater West Beach to make a meal and meets the people who make an eco house from local materials. Sanjida O'Connell surveys the Manx Sheepwalk on Skomer. Adam Henson delivers some rare cattle in Cornwall, and Tom Heap examines how farms can reduce their greenhouse emissions. Includes weather for the week ahead.

7.30 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. The fourth quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the concluding match of this stage, which takes place at the Stade de France in Paris. The winners of this fixture will meet the victorious side from last night in Marseille's Thursday and the local supporters will hope that France are involved. The French have already won here on the opening night of the tournament against Romania, and their habit of doing just enough to win, with late victories in that match and against Albania, should serve them well during the knockout phase. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.00 BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Room 101 – Extra Storage. (R) **11.10** Film: No Strings Attached. (2011) **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows: **7.30** Antiques Roadshow **8.30** The Musketeers **9.25** Casualty **10.15** BBC News **10.35** Regional News: Weather **10.45** MOTD: Euro 2016 Highlights **11.30** FILM: No Strings Attached (15/2011) **1.10** Weather for The Week Ahead **1.15-1.15** BBC News

BBC2

6.45 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **10.45** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **11.15** A Cook Around the Rich Countries. (R) **12.15** The Hot Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **1.15** Film: The Caine Mutiny. (1954) **2.30** World War II naval drama, starring Humphrey Bogart. **3.15** Triathlon. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **6.00** Gardeners' World. Horticultural ideas and advice. (R) **6.30** Film: Bedtime Stories. (2008) Fantasy comedy, starring Adam桑德勒, Ken Russell, Guy Pearce and Russell Brand. **8.00** Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc test drives the new Porsche 911 R, and Chris Evans tries out an MGB Roadster. Rory Reid goes to Scotland to check out Ford's first ever Mustang with right-hand drive, and Chris Harris puts Honda's latest NSX through its paces. Patrick Dempsey and Greg Davies are the Stars in a Rallycross Car. Last in the series.

9.00 Dragons' Den: Pitches to Riches. Richard Osman presents a look back at some of the most memorable contestants to appear on the business ideas show, and discovers what success they have enjoyed since making their pitch to the panel. Peter Jones pays a visit to celebrity chef Levi Roots, whose company Reggae Ragga Sauce became a success through his appearance on the show, while Deborah Meaden is reunited with Jason Daykin, the youngest ever contestant to win the backing of a Dragon, to discover if he has fulfilled his potential as an entrepreneur. (R)

10.00 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show. (R) **10.30** Serena. A look into the life of Serena Williams.

11.50 MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two. **4.00** In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:

6.30 Top Gear 7.30 FILM: Catch Me If You Can (12/2002) **9.45** Mock the Week (R) **10.20** Serena **11.35** MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay **1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile (R) **2.10** Sign Zone: Holby City (R) **3.10-3.10** This Is BBC Two

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Oddbods. **7.35** The Gardeners' Almanac. (R) **8.00** Birds Are Going to Be Bopped. (R) **8.15** The Teletubbies. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** FIA Formula E Championship. **12.00** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** Masterpiece TV: Weather. **1.20** Off Their Rockers Blue Badge Special. (R) **1.55** Love Your Garden. (R) **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News: Weather.

6.15 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.15 Euro 2016. The fourth quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the concluding match of this stage, which takes place at the Stade de France in Paris. The winners of this fixture will meet the victorious side from last night in Marseille on Thursday and the local supporters will hope that France are involved. The French have already won here on the opening night of the tournament against Romania, and their habit of doing just enough to win, with late victories in that match and against Albania, should serve them well during the knockout phase. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.15 CITV News: Weather. **10.35** River Monsters. (R) **11.40** Peston on Sunday. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:

12.14-12.15 Local Weather **5.45** Catchphrase **6.30** ITV Regional News **8.00** Ant Weather **8.45** ITV News And Weather **9.00** You've Been Framed! **8.00** Endeavour **10.00** ITV News And Weather **10.14** Local Weather **10.15** Euro 2016 Highlights **11.10** Peston On Sunday (R) **12.10-3.00** Jackpot247 **4.45-5.05** Nightscreen

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday. **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. **4.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **5.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Mandy. (R) **7.45** The Wiggles. (R) **8.15** The Wiggles. (R) **8.45** The Wiggles. (R) **9.15** The Wiggles. (R) **9.45** The Wiggles. (R) **10.15** The Wiggles. (R) **10.45** The Wiggles. (R) **11.15** The Wiggles. (R) **11.45** The Wiggles. (R) **12.15** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.15** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.15** Film: Igor. (2008) **3.00** Film: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole. (2010) **4.00** Comedy drama, with the voice of Jim Sturgess. **4.45** Film: Marley & Me. (2008) **5.00** Film: Jennifer Aniston. **6.00** Formula 1: Austrian Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the ninth round of the season, which took place at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. Nico Rosberg extended his lead over Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton at the top of the drivers' championship with victory in the last race in Azerbaijan, and the German will have been able to take confidence from the fact that he won this race in 2015 and overtook Hamilton in the process.

8.00 China's Forgotten Emperor. Documentary about Wu Zetian, the only woman to become emperor of China, reassessing her supposedly brutal reign in the seventh century in light of new archaeological finds. **9.00** Film: Pitch Perfect. (2012) A new musical comedy about a school's a cappella group that soon becomes a hit during her first year of college, but soon acquires a new circle of friends in a band of misfits with a shared talent for singing. She joins their a cappella group and leads them to compete in the campus music competitions. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson and Elizabeth Banks. **11.10** Film: Piranha 3DD. (2012) The opening of a water park is turned into a massacre when man-eating fish start feasting on the visitors. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson and Elizabeth Banks. **12.40** Cyberbully. A teenager is targeted by an advanced computer hacker, revealing the dark depths of the internet. Maisie Williams stars in this chilling thriller inspired by real-life cases. (R) **1.55** Film: Play. (2011) **3.50** French Collection. (R) **4.40** Fifteen to One. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Mandy. (R) **7.45** The Wiggles. (R) **8.15** The Wiggles. (R) **8.45** The Wiggles. (R) **9.15** The Wiggles. (R) **9.45** The Wiggles. (R) **10.15** The Wiggles. (R) **10.45** The Wiggles. (R) **11.15** The Wiggles. (R) **11.45** The Wiggles. (R) **12.15** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.15** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.15** Film: Igor. (2008) **3.00** Film: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole. (2010) **4.00** Comedy drama, with the voice of Jim Sturgess. **4.45** Film: Marley & Me. (2008) **5.00** Film: Jennifer Aniston. **6.00** The Secret Life of Kittens. Concluding part of the documentary following kittens from birth to 12 months old, revealing how the sights, smells and sounds they experience and the friends they make during this period will influence their impressions and shape their unique personalities. +Cameras capture all the formative moments, including their first exploration of their home environment, their curtain-climbing acrobatics, and the first time they venture out to meet the neighbourhood cats. (R) **8.00** Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family-friendly hook, featuring babies learning about the world the hard way and an excitable airline passenger. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. A countdown of illusions that have stood the test of time on the small screen, featuring Penn and Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine, Paul Daniels and Dynamo. (R) **12.50** Lip Sync Battle. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Five Children and It **8.15** Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid **9.00** War of Words: Soldier-Poets of the Somme **10.30** Hidden Histories: WWI's Forgotten Photographs **11.30** Timeshift: How Britain Won the Space Race – The Story of Bernard Lovell and Jodrell Bank **12.30** Wonders of the Universe **1.30** Horizon: How You Really Make Decisions **2.30** Rise of the Continents **3.30** Close Up **4.15** The Big Picture **5.15** The Big Picture **6.15** The Big Picture **7.15** Love Island **12.50** Film: Baby Mama (2008) **1.50** Film: Baby Mama (2008) **2.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **3.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **4.50** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **5.50** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.00** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.45** Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **7.45** Film: Guy (2011) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Caroline Flack: The Hot Desk **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3** **11.15** Totally Bonkers **Guinness World Records** **11.50** You've Been Framed! **12.15** Love Island **12.50** Film: Baby Mama (2008) **1.50** Film: Baby Mama (2008) **2.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **3.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **4.50** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **5.50** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.00** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.45** Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **7.45** Film: Guy (2011) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Caroline Flack: The Hot Desk **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.50** A Touch of Frost **2.00** Tour de France **4.15** Film: 4.30 Pawn Stars **6.00** The Wine Show **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** River Monsters **9.10** Film: The Fugitive (1993) **10.15** Film: The Fugitive (1993) **11.50** Film: Dawn of the Dead (2004) **12.55** Film: Dawn of the Dead (2004) **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **4** **12.30** Made in Chelsea: The Aftermath **1.35** Couples Come Dine With Me **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Rude Tube **2.25** Gogglebox **3.20** Hollyoaks **5.15** Lip Sync Battle **6.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.40** Rango (2011) **6.50** The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) **9.00** Inglourious Basterds (2009) **12.05** Dog Soldiers (2002)

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2.00 pm	Dudley Firs Street Christadelphian Hall, Firs Street, Dudley, DY2 7DN	6.15 pm	Oldbury Christadelphian Hall, St. James Road, Oldbury, B69 2EP
6.00 pm	Dudley Queens Cross Christadelphian Hall, High Street, Dudley, DY1 1QT	2.00 pm	Rowley Regis Christadelphian Hall, 39 Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, B65 8JH
6.00 pm	Halesowen Christadelphian Hall, Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen, B63 3JL	6.00 pm	Wolverhampton Christadelphian Hall, 129 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 0DU
6.00 pm	Kinver Achwood Park Primary, Bells Lane, Wardsley, DY8 5DZ		

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Missing at 17, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An adopted teenager runs away from home to find her biological parents, and meets a man who offers to help her. However, after she is rejected by her birth mother, he instead lures her into assisting his criminal activities. Drama, starring Ayla Kell. (2013)

The Deadly Dress: Garage Sale Mystery 4, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Amateur sleuth Jennifer Shannon finds an old wedding dress and investigates the disappearance of the groom on his big day decades before. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin and Cheryl Ladd. (2015)

Miss March, Channel 4, 1.45am

A man awakens from a coma to find his formerly chaste high-school girlfriend has grown up to become a Playboy centrefold, and enlists the aid of his lecherous best friend in winning her back. Comedy, directed by and starring Zach Cregger and Trevor Moore. With Raquel Alessi, Molly Stanton and Hugh Hefner as himself. (2009)



Miss March, Wednesday, Channel 4, 1.45am

I Dream of Murder, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A psychiatrist decides to investigate when one of her patients is murdered, placing her career and marriage in jeopardy as she becomes obsessed with the case. As the truth comes to light, she is forced to confront her own inner demons. Mystery, starring Jolene Blalock, Martin Cummins and Carrie Colak. (2006)

The Sentinel, BBC1, 11.35pm

A secret service agent is convinced a member of a neo-Nazi militant group has infiltrated the White House. But his attempt to investigate comes to a halt when he is framed for murder and blackmailed over his affair with the president's wife. As he battles to clear his name, his former protege is given the task of bringing him to justice. Spy thriller, starring Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland, Eva Longoria and Kim Basinger. (2006)

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Steph decides to get into exotic lingerie

Following the success of *Sex and the City* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*, some people may think that Ann Summers parties now seem rather tame.

However, Sophie Rundle, who stars in ITV's new drama series *Brief Encounters* as Steph, a woman who starts a new career selling exotic lingerie and marital aids in 1980s Sheffield, admits that handling the vintage prop left her a little flustered.

She says: "I thought after about five minutes it wouldn't be funny, anymore. But it just never stopped being funny, particularly when I'm sat in a room with (co-star) Penelope Wilton, who is one of my heroes. I pulled one out of the box and she said, 'And what does that one with the pump do, Sophie?'

"What do you say to that? I went very red in the face, mumbled something and ran away."

Let's hope her character is made of sterner stuff, as Steph is one of four women – the others are Pauline (Wilton), Nita (Angela Griffin) and Dawn (Sharon Rooney) – whose lives

look set to change due to their involvement in a saucy new business venture.

For part-time cleaner Steph, selling knickers initially seems like a way to make some much-needed cash, but it expands her horizons in ways she could never have expected.

Sophie, whose previous credits include *Peaky Blinders* and *Happy Valley*, explains: "Steph has never been expected to have a career. She got married straight out of school and then had a child. It's the kind of marriage where the husband expects to be the breadwinner and the wife will stay at home."

"When we first meet her, Steph is quite shy, retiring and sweet. But when they come up against money problems, she discovers the job as a party planner and another world is opened up to her. Through the episodes you see her develop and blossom into this amazing woman. Her confidence changes and she becomes independent."

"Steph blossoms into another version of herself. So she starts off in

one place and finishes somewhere very different."

However, in this first episode, not everyone approves of Steph's new money-making venture – her husband Terry (Karl Davies) refuses to entertain the idea, but she goes ahead anyway.

Meanwhile, Steph's boss Pauline is torn between being horrified at the thought of having one of the parties at her home and wanting to open up her social circle beyond her husband, while hairdresser Dawn has to hold the fort when the hostesses receive some unexpected guests.

Sophie hopes the characters aren't the only ones who are going to be inspired by *Brief Encounters*. "We've had enough of women being in the background and just having supporting parts. I think people want to see dramas about women. Or at least with women having just as many main parts as men."

"There's been a huge change and I think it will continue. Those stories are just waiting to be told. And thank God we're telling them."

Sophie Rundle stars in *Brief Encounters*, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Forces of Nature with Brian Cox
BBC1, 9pm

New series. The physicist goes on a grand tour of the planet to explain how the Earth's beauty is created by just a handful of forces, beginning by examining the diversity of shapes in the natural world. Off the coast of Canada, Brian explains how massive icebergs that surge down from Greenland and into shipping lanes of the Atlantic emerge due to a powerful yet infinitesimal force of nature.

Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm

Six years ago, Nottingham youngster Tilly Sawford was so badly scalded in a domestic accident that she has been a regular hospital patient since then. Despite the pain and disfigurement of her body, she has remained an upbeat little girl, while her two brothers and two sisters all help with her care. The whole family, including mum Emma and dad Kyle are in for a treat. Though their current back yard is a building site, staff at Tilly's local hospital asked Love Your Garden team if they could create a new, safe garden for all of them to enjoy. In spite of some horrendous weather, Alan Titchmarsh and his associates transform it into the ultimate family garden.

Life Stripped Bare
Channel 4, 9pm

A life-changing experiment for members of three households, who, for three weeks, have all of their possessions taken away, even their clothes, and every single item in their home put into storage. They must not buy or borrow anything, apart from food and drink, and carry on with their daily routine, while choosing to get back one item a day for 21 days. Those taking part include East London fashion designer Heidi, who owns 31 bikinis and lives through social media, and Tom, Andrew and Georgia in Cardiff, who own over 2,000 items and are dedicated socialisers.

MOTD: Euro 2016 Live
BBC1, 7.30pm

The first semi-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the opening last-four match, which takes place at the Stade de Lyon. On paper, this game may feature two so-called weaker countries compared with tomorrow's second semi. The likes of holders Spain, host nation France, Germany, Italy and England all ended up on the other side of the draw

following the group games, with Switzerland, Poland, Wales and Croatia among the sides to land in this half. However, whichever teams reach this stage of the tournament will know they have got here on merit, and will be confident of taking part in the showpiece game on Sunday.



Celebrity First Dates, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

Celebrity MasterChef
BBC1, 8.30pm

The contenders are challenged to create a main course and a pudding, using rabbit for the main, chocolate for the pudding, and a range of fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices. They are then sent out on their first mass catering task, making lunch for staff at Virgin Atlantic's training centre.

Celebrity First Dates
Channel 4, 9pm

Bagging a date with a celebrity sounds like the stuff of some people's dreams – or at least the plot of rom-com *Notting Hill*. But how will four unsuspecting members of the public react in this special edition of the dating show as they turn up to a famous face sitting opposite them? TV legend Esther Rantzen, who has found life lonely since the death of her husband 15 years ago, admits that her formidable reputation can scare men off, but she's hoping to find someone who won't, in her words, "run a mile". Meanwhile, Richard Blackwood is out to prove he's nothing like the bad boy he plays on *EastEnders*. Paralympian Will Bayley plans to say it with flowers, and the Only Way is Essex's Jess Wright, who has some experience of seeing her love life play out on screen, hopes to find her Mr Right.

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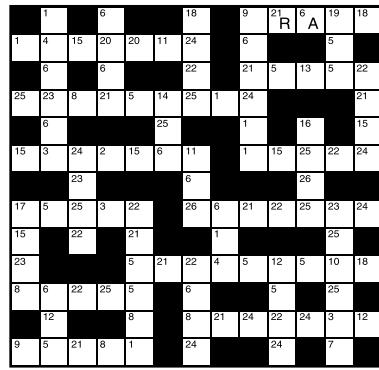
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	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The poolside dining area also hosted entertainment in the evenings

The site's main adventure playground area

Children can play in the pool while the parents lounge



Venturing out - Guéthary Beach is well worth a visit

Site where families can Basque in sea, sun and entertainment

THE aroma of freshly baked bread signals the start of new mornings in France and collecting this warm and doughy delight became a daily routine my family and I wholeheartedly adopted while visiting the Basque Coast.

Imagine allowing a six-year-old the freedom to ride his bike to the onsite patisserie, practise his language skills and bring home freshly baked pastries for everyone.

That's exactly how each morning began on our glorious Eurocamp holiday at Le Ruisseau Campsite set in 18 hectares and just five miles from historic Biarritz.

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By Maria Bagnall

top destinations like Lake Garda, the Costa Verde in Spain and Switzerland. Being a traffic-free site allowed the children to whizz around on bikes and play in safety.

After a hearty breakfast delivered proudly by our eldest, on the decked terrace of our Espirit, three-bedroomed mobile home, most days were spent around the site enjoying the fantastic facilities.

Accommodation was perfectly functional and included three bedrooms, a kitchen diner with gas hob and oven, WC and shower room. For our needs the mobile home was perfectly adequate but if you are looking for a little more luxury the higher spec models may be more suitable.

Daily, there are various kids' clubs and activities geared to suit children up to the age of 12 and there is an endless list

of evening entertainment to boot. Blessed with glorious sunshine meant the children played in the pools. Parents could get a break, too, as loungers are carefully placed allowing full view of the swimming areas.

Off site, the beaches around the coast offer some of the best waves and the clearest waters. There are six to choose from and one of the longest stretches of coastline of all the Côte Basque towns await - all with lifeguards during the high seasons.

For us the beach at Guéthary was ideal for families, with rock pools teeming crabs and fish of every colour and the waters are such a beautiful deep blue, you can spend hours just gazing out to sea.

Being so near, San Sebastian in Spain at the heart of Basque country was another worthy day trip with its famous La Concha beach, considered one of the best city beaches in Europe. Be under no illu-

sions, Le Ruisseau Campsite is a long journey even by adult standards and took a lot of planning - an eight-hour drive from the north coast. But if you are happy to make do without the car, it is recommended to hop on a flight to Biarritz and take a short transfer (7km) to the park.

Keen to explore the area we drove and crossing the Channel couldn't have been easier. We opted for Brittany Ferries, Portsmouth fast-craft ferry crossing to Cherbourg which takes just three hours with daily departures. By the time we had waved goodbye to the ships at Portsmouth, had brunch and wandered around the ship we had motored across the Channel and arrived at Cherbourg in record time.

To break up the journey we took an overnight break at Puy de Fou, a historical and award-winning theme park in Les Epesses in the heart of the Vendée region.

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TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Indian Pakistani Kurdish or Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422927

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated blonde seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673

FEMALE, 33, blue eyes, long blonde hair, pretty, slim, looking for Asian man to have some discreet no strings fun with. Text only Mailbox: 5495296

KIM, 38s, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA Tel: 0906 515 3004 Box 422167

GILL, 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4228438

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seems chag any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 blonde, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 422363

SINGLE 40s, seeks Indian Pakistani Kurdish males, for no strings, day or evening fun. I am discreet, I can travel and I can accommodate, Midlands/Stone on Trent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422921

SOPHIA young 40ys, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0905 515 3016 Box: 413399

ANNE, 40, pretty professional female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422711

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375

FEMALE, 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3032 Box 421605

ALISON, lonely shy blue eyed blonde, 46, just wanting to be loved, looking for caring man to pamper in return for mutual TLC. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422859

JESS, pretty blonde lady, 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

BARBARA, 44, friendly and outgoing but lonely, seeking similar lonely male to pamper, enjoy fun times and affection with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422839

KATRINA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text Only Box 4148978

MAUREEN, 36, pretty blonde, new to the area, very lonely, looking to meet someone understanding for convenient friendship, 30-60yrs. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422815

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest, gentleman for friendship/possibly relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469

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MANDY 44, fun flirty blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age, unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422863

JOANNE, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things. WLTM local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571

NICKIE 40, slim blonde, with sultry green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands woman, for some really good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181

AFRICAN lady, 45 yrs, 5ft 8, slim, sensual, creative, interesting, looking for NSA fun with a man of means. Must be non-smoker. Text only Mailbox: 5475056

RITA 41, exotic olive skinned female, friendly, chatty, loves to entertain, seeks loving honest male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422723

PETRIANA, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old fashioned looks, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422717

PASSIONATE, broadminded curvy lady 67 seeks very assertive discreet younger male 25-45 for strings fun, looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 540845

JULIE petite, slim, attractive blonde young looking early 40s, enjoys wiring, dining, theatre seeking good looking romantic male, 45-55, for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422709

CARING, honest female, WLTM genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422111

NICKOLA 33yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe more with similar open-minded uncomplicated companion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422487

LUCY 37yrs 5ft 11ins blonde, loves nightclubs, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422445

EMMA, 56, active and always on the go, sees fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meets etc, looking for genuine caring mate up to 55yrs for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439

FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, grey eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTM gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422663

KAREN 32 a working partner blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc. WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

SARA, 39, homeowner, likes animals, tattoo and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed blonde, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 60-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

LORNA 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

JEAN, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out. Scotland, WLTM a gentleman any age for company and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422651

SARA 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

LOVELY lady, inside and out, very caring, loving nature, likes music, days out, countryside, poetry, long walks, meals in and out, looking for a gentleman, 65-80. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422525

SHARON a young 49, caring blonde single female, looks like a full figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 544419

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

GUY WLTM attractive smart lady, likes a dance or 2 and enjoys days out. Text only Mailbox: 482304

MALE 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469

UGAR daddy, business man in North Birmingham, would love to spoil a girl, woman, any race, children no problem. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421866

MATURE male, 50s, looking for a female, 30-60, for adult fun in the b4 area, text only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422637

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50YR old slim, genuine male, seeks female, any age for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 279508

WEST Midlands male, genuine, WLTM similar lady around 52 years old, so please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422567

YOURSELF, 55-70, unattached, want a sane society, love rock and roll, swimming, LTR? This guy 69, unattached, WLTM you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422505

RAMONE, very fit, looking for a like minded lady, any age, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422479

ALAN, 49, genuine, builder, 6ft, six pack, ATTRACTIVE, mature Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeking, seeks attractive female, 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358113

ATTRACTIVE Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeks attractive, Asian female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361467

JOE, 46, attractive male, GSOH, home/car owner, well travelled, seeking mate for friendship possibly more, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420665

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks someone for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177

MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTM female for intimate adult fun and pleasure. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422805

JOE, 56, tall, young looking and acting, slim and fit, considered good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422803

TALL, attractive, Shrewsbury male, 57, WLTM an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801

DAVE, 65, slim, white male, Birmingham area, easygoing, likes music, country pubs, WLTM petite, easygoing, white female, for LTR friendship/relationship, if this is you get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422395

SHAUN, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396400

MATURE male average build and fit WLTM a lady any status, 45-70, for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 512746

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BI-CURIOUS male 57 looking for someone to show me the ropes age between 60 - 65 , txt only. Text only Mailbox: 4816135

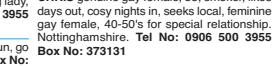
YOUNG looking gay male looking for clean shaving male 40s for friendship, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5492406

MATURE male WLTM similar mature hairy male, Derbyshire/Staffordshire area for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422191

CAROL, bi curious lady, blonde, 5ft2, short hair, blue eyes, size 14, WLTM a similar lady between 50-60 year old. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421281

CHRIS genuine gay female, 55, smoker, likes days out, cosy nights in, seeks local, feminine gay female, 40-50's for special relationship. Nottinghamshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373131

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MELANIE 47, seeks straight female friends for nights out, pubs, clubs, concerts, etc. Text only to mobile no: 5345662

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985

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Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

FreeAds

IT'S
FREE
IT'S
EASY

For items up to £250

VISIT:

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Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878

8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person

At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST—Gold Rolls Royce key fob,
metallic value. Reward for
return. 07884 220081.

1
Family

elderly & disabled

ELECTRIC RECLINER CHAIR,
small, light, verona, verona
wine, colour. 2 years guarantee,
£400. 01902 426138.

ET4 SPORT SCOOTER, one year
old, in good condition, new batteries
fitted June 14, 2016, £350 or
very near offer. 07580 574503.

MOTORCYCLE SCOOTER Very good
condition, four wheeler.
£295. 01902 311029.

MOTORCYCLE SCOOTERS from £350
each, delivery, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07631 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned
lifts from £799. New available.
01952 405397/07889 273617

2
Leisure
Time

boats & water sports

CANOES 1 long, fast single fibre
glass, 4.15m, £90. 1 rubberised
canvas 3.9m £30. Offers accepted.
01902 897846.

caravans / motorhomes

COACHMAN PASTICHE.
460-2
2007. Excellent condition.
2 berth, motor-mover,
2 awnings, groundsheets.
All extras - Ready to go.
£6,995 o.n.o.
Telephone 07860 462019.

COMPASS LYNN 2 berth, good condition,
many extras.
£950.
01902 862472.

STATIC CARAVAN
With decking, on private plot,
quiet site in Mid Wales, No age
limit, 2 fishing pools, 20
minutes to nearest coast,
ground rent included for 2016.
£5,995 o.n.o.
07555 033350.

caravans wanted

WANTED
CARAVAN WANTED
Cash on pick up asap.
Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717 090817.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything
considered. New or Old
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerSet.co.uk

what's on

antique fairs

*** ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR**
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET,
HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
(NEXT TO WILKOS).
FRIDAY 8TH JULY
8.00AM - 4PM
07800 718 069 / 07883 680 627
www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964 

3
Home &
Services

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent
condition. £85 can deliver.
Telephone 07493 919511.

in your garden

ATCO ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER,
steel roller, grassbox, 2 years old,
little used, £80. 01902 573176.

HUSQVARNA 46IN Ride on Mower,
2016 model, (unused), £2,395.
Husqvarna 22in lawnmower
(unused), £400. Call 01743 718939

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publication of any inaccuracies or in accuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LAUY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
• Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• DIAMONDS • GOLD & SILVER COINS
• ALL SILVER • ALL ORIENTAL ITEMS
Pre 70 silver coins • All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans /
Roundhouse / Graham / Farish /
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
theretrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID

**ALL TOYS, CARS, LORRIES
WANTED.**
All conditions
"Dinky" • "Corgi" • "Spot-on"
"Britains and Airfix"
"Wileesco Steam
Engines" • Star Wars Figures
"Scalextric Pre 1970's.
* Tri-ang Minic motorways,
cars or complete sets.
* Old Enamel Advertising
Signs • Railway collections
* Pre 1970 Annals wanted,
Beano, Dandy, Rupert the
Bear, etc"
Plus Omega watches.
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES

Tickets and other sports
memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the
right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

MAMOD STEAM

engines/trains

cars, lorries, vehicles, any
condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED

to carefully consider all of their options

before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

RECOMMENDED

to check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
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properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price



BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

WE ALSO BUY LAND

0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

30 yrs

PEUGEOT PARTNER
12 months MOT, EW, 05 plate, for disabled use, immaculate condition, 1400cc, 61,000 miles, windows all round, alarm, £1,700 ono.
01384 457219, 07923 191378.

SEAT IBIZA 1.2 Reference Sport, 2007, one owner from new, 20k, very good condition, just serviced, MoT, £2,800 o.n.o. 07785 384166.

TOYOTA MR2 CONVERTIBLE 2001, 1.8, 1600cc, 61,000 miles, MoT, July 2017, £1,650. Telephone 07796 628098.

VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 VVTi Glam, 3dr, 2013, one lady owner, panoramic sunroof, alloys, fsh, full MoT, £5,995. Call 07970 504111.

HONDA VTR FIRESTORM 2001, reg. 15/00000 miles, 10 months MoT, very good condition, service history, art cans, belly pan, hugger, 1st to see/hear will buy.

£1,950 ono.
07941 691826.

SPIDI back / chest protector, Opti back / chest protector, Opti, 30000 miles, £100. Haynes manual for NTV 650, sell the lot for £50. 01902 341487.

VOLKSWAGEN POLO MODA 1.2 Sporty Special Edition, 2011, metallic jet black, alloys, full service history, MoT, 5 doors, low tax, Bluetooth CD, ideal for 5s.

£5,499 ono.
07779 332203.

VW BEETLE CONVERTIBLE 05 reg, 16,000 miles, private plate, MoT, excellent condition. £1,595. 07939 029596.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C3 06 - 1.1L Desire, 11,000 miles, silver, MoT July 2015. 07930 374986.

DAIHATSU YRV RADICAL 2 1.3, 5-dr, full MoT, 03 reg, red, face off CD, alarmed, 79,000miles, good, clean, reliable. £450 o.n.o. 01902 734695.

Fiat Punto ACTIVE 1.2, 5 door, 2000, red, light blue, off white, MoT. Excellent condition, only 695. Telephone 07399 675758.

FORD FOCUS estate diesel, 2006, 127,500 miles, white, EM, long MoT, no advisories, very good condition, £950 o.n.o. 01902 724609.

FORD KA STYLE 1.3, Red, 2002, MoT'd till October, very good condition, 100,000 miles, £450. 07757 157823. Warr.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 petrol, 6 months MoT, 2005, black, hard top, good condition, £1,000 o.n.o. 01902 590279 or 07510 373906.

NISSAN MICRA Tempest, 3-dr hatchback, 2007, 01, 13 months MoT, £650. 07828 678711.

RENAULT KANGOO 55 plate, long MoT, 95k, £1,100 o.n.o. 01384 864058 or 07947 950882.

RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE, 2007, 1.5 Diesel, 1 owner, 37,000 miles. Full MoT. Very good condition, £1,495. o.n.o. 01902 651268.

ROVER 25 2002, 2.0k, fsh, MoT, full leather, PAS, excellent condition inside/out, £6500. 07817 029177.

ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 1.4, 11 months MoT, 2002, 1 owner, excellent condition, must be seen £450 o.n.o. 01384 352130/07901 125383.

SMART FOR TWO PURE AUTO 2004, black, good condition for year, 10 months MoT, major service done on June 1, health reason for sale. £500 o.n.o. 07415 837186 / 01902 683742.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4, 2000, MoT, clean, tidy, spares or repair, £200. 07813 932880.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1999 reg, MoT November. £350.00. 01902 784244.

VAUXHALL ASTRA new shape, 54 Reg., 12 months MoT, 5dr, EW, EM, AC, alloys, good condition, £650. o.n.o. 07754 557661.

VW BEETLE 05 reg, 2.1, Auto, 6 months MoT, 2000, black, CD, alloy wheels, new cam belt, good condition, £1,200 o.n.o. 07917 370054.

VW POLO S55 1200cc, plum red, 05 reg, 3 door, 74k, 05-08 model, 10 months MoT, very reliable, very good condition. £1,450 o.n.o.

Telephone 07973 378867 or 01902 620596.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC CARS Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO van, white, 66 plate, 80,000 miles, good runner, clean van, never left you down. £1,400 o.n.o. 07966 226638.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

driving tuition



motorbikes

HONDA VTR FIRESTORM 2001, reg. 15/00000 miles, 10 months MoT, very good condition, service history, art cans, belly pan, hugger, 1st to see/hear will buy.

£1,950 ono.
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commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO van, white, 66 plate, 80,000 miles, good runner, clean van, never left you down. £1,400 o.n.o. 07966 226638.

Classified Ads

public & legal notices

PATRICIA MARY THOMPSON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons

having a claim against or an interest in the

Williams House, 8-10 Greenbank Road, Selly

Park, Birmingham, B26 2EU (DEU), who died

on or before 26th June 2016, are required to

make a claim to the Undisputed Estate

which will be distributed having regard only to the

claims and interests of which they have had

note.

RLK Solicitors Limited, 26 Calthorpe Road,

Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1RP.

Ref: JeB.Thompson.16.107

10 Personals

personal



GENTLEMAN 5FT 5

Aged 57, wishes to meet Lady for Friendship possible Relationship 50 - 75. Photo appreciated and returned.

Box Number P20403 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5

TALL, LEAN, FIT 68 YEARS OLD MALE

Rough diamond, seeks polish

from intelligent attractive younger lady.

Box Number P20401 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE ATTRACTIVE SLIM MAN 53

GSOH, car owner, would like to meet genuine lady 40-58 for evenings, days out and friendship.

Box Number P20407 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Box Number P20407 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

1 Visit our ClassifiedAds website

www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2 Call our Classified sales team

on 01902 317 878

3 Self Serve - Create your own advert

in print and online - visit:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by Express & Star



LADY 60

Wishes to meet Gentleman, I have a young outlook, enjoy travel, cinema, concerts, DIY and cooking, non smoker for Friendship.

Photo appreciated and returned. Sedgley area or radius of 5 miles.

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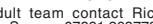
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BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS

Charter Standard Club Est 1983.

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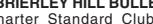
Mini kickers Contact Lee Slater 07432 565747.

U9's Lee Slater 07432 565747 or Paul Tarr 07808 694489.

U10's contact Mark Goodey 07802 768519.

U11's contact Tim Smith 07849 253889.

U13's contact Chris Coombes 07806 810679.



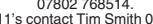
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Halesowen Chronicle

Thursday, June 30, 2016

Skoda out drags Panamera

By Ian Donaldson

PORSCHE Panamera owners be warned – take care who you challenge at the lights. If it's a certain Skoda, you'll lose.

Yes, you can now buy a big, comfy Skoda that will out drag one version of Porsche's big hatchback at less than half the price. And with a Skoda badge.

How embarrassing is that. Best, of course, that neither driver gives in to the urge to play top dog, but...

The Porsche humbling machine is a version of the Czech company's latest Superb hatch and estate that comes with a pumped up 2.0 litre turbo petrol engine whose 280 horsepower make it the most powerful Skoda you can buy.



For the record, this Skoda sizzles to 62mph in 5.8 seconds (Porsche 6.3 seconds) and tops out at 155mph and surely produces a car unique in its combination of cost/space/speed.

For the £31,445 2.0 TSI 280PS Superb SE L Executive (the estate is £1,300 more) looks almost unfeasibly inexpensive considering what you get for your money.

First, there's the room on offer. Or living room, if we're talking about space in the back seat. You'll need something in the limo league to approach the Superb's sense of liberating, leg stretching vastness. Then consider the boot space – huge in the hatch and slightly gargantuan in the (surprisingly, slightly shorter) estate.

Bigger, even than you'll discover in a Mercedes-Benz E-Class, long considered the go-to car when you need space for the kitchen sink and draining board too.

You can have all this roominess in a Superb costing as little as £19,060 for the hatch but, while its little 1.4 litre petrol engine performs far more strongly than you'd ever imagine, it's hardly the fire breather tested here.

Its four-cylinder 2.0 litre engine manages to produce more power than the 3.6 litre V6 in the old Superb – thank turbocharging for that – and, on paper at least, looks usefully economical too.

You will have to try very hard indeed to approach the 39.8mpg quoted as this Superb's official average. The trip computer showed 30mpg after a moderately enthusiastic run – not bad, but with the constant temptation to enjoy the performance it might need a saint with a weak right leg to do better.

The engine's 160g/km pollution rating translates into £185 annual road tax, which is unlikely to trouble a potential purchaser.

Part of the keenness shown by the fastest



The Porsche humbling machine is a version of the Czech company's latest Superb hatch and estate

Superb is down to the six-speed DSG automatic gearbox that comes as part of the package.

With gearchange paddles on the steering wheel (a £95 no brainer upgrade), this car suddenly feels smaller and extremely sporty when the right road appears.

Should it then turn rapidly into the wrong road another standard feature will step in to assist, in the form of a four-wheel drive system that pushes power to the rear wheels if the going gets slippery.

For another £750 you can add dynamic chassis control that lets you select several

grades of suspension stiffness by producing a dash display; the car rides quite firmly in standard mode already but can turn more race-ready if desired (or sink into softness at the other extreme).

If auto gears and all-wheel drive make the price look already pretty darned reasonable, consider what else comes as standard – leather trim, adaptive cruise control, sat nav, electric driver's seat with memory and DAB radio.

Oh, and an ice scraper in the fuel flap and an umbrella in a rear door. Eat your heart out, Porsche.



Halesowen Autos

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Finance example: 2011 Ford Focus Sport, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £110.53 (£25.50 per week) Total amount payable £4991.04 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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John Parrott on stage with snooker coach Andrew Highfield at Wednesfield Conservative Club



Jack Harris and Riley Parsons presented with their awards by the former world snooker champion



Junior champion Richard Haney collects his award

Parrott's flying visit to snooker presentation

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"We opted for a change of format with an after dinner speaker and it worked really well. John was brilliant."

FORMER world champion John Parrott pocketed more fans as he helped bring the curtain down on the Staffs and West Midlands Snooker League.

The popular ex-player was guest of honour at the league's annual awards night at Wednesfield Conservative Club.

And Parrott, who beat Jimmy White at The Crucible in 1991 to claim the world crown, proved a big hit.

The 52-year-old took part in a question and answer session with snooker coach Andrew Highfield, who helped organise the event, before dishing out awards and then treating 190 spectators to his impressive stand-up routine.

League match secretary Lee Thomson was delighted with the turnout and said the new-look format was well received.

Exhibition

"It was a very good night. We had 190 people there as opposed to 80 last year," said Thomson.

"We used to have a series of exhibition games and that has not really worked for the last three or four years. So we opted for a change of format with an after dinner speaker and it worked really well. John was brilliant and just what we needed."

"He did a question and answer session before handing out the various awards. Then he did his stand-up routine, telling tales about his career and his time on A Question of Sport."

"He also stuck around and did as many photographs and signed as many autographs as people wanted. He was very, very accommodating."

Parrott's appearance helped cap another successful campaign as the league enhanced its reputation as the best in the country. The new season will break off in September with 96 sides doing battle across six

divisions. "We have a full complement of 96 teams again for next season including a new side from Stafford Constitutional, which is excellent news," added Thomson.

John actually said he doesn't know of a league as strong as ours anywhere else in the country.

"He paid tribute to the committee on the job they are doing to keep the league strong, because that's not the trend around the country. It's a hotbed of snooker around here. There isn't another league in the country with as many sides and the standard is very high as well."

That standard was emphasised with a record number of 34 century breaks during the season, easily more than any other league in the country.

Brandhall Labour A claimed the Division One title for the fifth consecutive year by virtue of a deciding frame triumph against Sedgley Ex-Service in their final game of the season. The top-flight action also saw a new best of 19 century breaks compiled, tour

pr Mitchell Mann (Brandhall Labour A) topping the list with a superb 141.

Cannock Cons A will be in the top division next season after winning the Division Two title while Amery

made it back-to-back promotions in lifting the Division Five crown. Bentley Moor marked their first year in the league by winning Division Six.

A new trophy was introduced in honour of one of the league's former players, Darren Crossley, who passed away last year. Junior champion Richard Haney of Wednesfield Cons was the inaugural winner.

Thomson said: "Darren was a popular player in the league and his former team-mates from Woodcross and Sedgley WMC clubbed together to provide a trophy. We will present that as a special achievement award each year in his honour."

Roll of honour – Division 1: Brandhall Labour A, runners-up Hotshots SC. Most wins: Richard Haney (Wednesfield Cons) 26. Highest break: Mitchell Mann (Brandhall Labour A) 141.

Division 2: Cannock Cons A, promoted Forty Four Club A (runners-up) and Bilston BC A. Most wins: Daniel Eaton-Lees (Cannock Cons) 26. Highest break: Daniel Eaton-Lees (Cannock Cons) 26.

Division 3: Sedgley WMC C, promoted Golden Cue D (runners-up) and Bilston BC B. Most wins: Lee Bannister (Bilston BC) 27. Highest break: Steve Williams (Sedgley WMC) 141.

Division 4: Wednesfield Transport B, promoted Sedgley Ex-Service C (runners-up) and Wednesfield RBL A. Most wins: Joe Hawkes (Sedgley Ex-Service) 26. Highest break: Joe Hawkes (Sedgley Ex-Service) 61.

Division 5: Amery, promoted Golden Cue G (runners-up) and Wolverhampton Electric D. Most wins: Steve Dredwell (Wolverhampton Electric) 26. Highest break: Steve Dredwell (Wolverhampton Electric) 23. Highest break: Peter Robbins (Woodfield Social) 66.

Division 6: Bentley Moor, promoted Pennfields D (runners-up) and Sheepwell Green B. Most wins: Paul Wakeman (Bushbury Grid) 26. Highest break: Paul Wakeman (Bushbury Grid) 54.

Challenge Cup: Hotshots SC, runners-up Sedgley Ex-Service A.

Consolation Cup: Golden Cue SC H, runners-up Bushbury Grid C.

Individual Champion: Liam Jones, Reanne Evans (Sedgley Ex-Service), runner-up Darryn Walker (Pennfields).

Individual Plate: Paul Lloyd (Shifnal), runner-up Mick Brezwyn (Shifnal).

Individual Handicap: Rob Whame (Stafford Institute), runner-up John Fallows (Shifnal).

3x2 Handicap: Sedgley Ex-Service, runners-up Hotshots SC.

Four-Handicap: Brandhall Labour A, Riley Parsons (Landywood SC), runners-up Geoff Williams & Gary Miller (Brandhall Labour A).

Pairs Medley: Daniel Ward & Simon Hickman (Sedgley Ex-Service), runners-up Peter Hyland & Dwyer Evans (Codsall Firs).

Secretaries: Tom Maddocks (Forthhouses CC), runner-up Robert Temple (Bushbury Grid B).

Grandmasters: Andy Evans (Landywood SC), runner-up Pat McVey (Woodfield Social). **Junior U21**: Rich Haney (Wednesfield Cons), runner-up Jack Harris (Landywood SC).



Bush SC H Consolation Cup winners Jame Smith, Pete O'Neill, Liam Jones, Geoff Rushton, Martin Beastall



Guest speaker John Parrott regales the audience at the West Midlands Snooker League presentation

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Ex-champ Parrott in top form at snooker league's presentation

Page 47



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Heron now focused on job in hand

BOXER Luke Heron admits that his toughest opponent is himself.

The West Bromwich middleweight, whose real surname is Walker, has earned plenty of plaudits in his opening two fights as a pro but, after joining the paid ranks, admits he has struggled with the discipline required to fulfil his undoubted potential.

The 22 year-old made his debut in October 2015, stopping fellow debutant Bryn Wain, before recording a points victory against Lewis Van Poetsch in December. However, after changing jobs and slipping out of the day-to-day training regime, Heron has not fought since.

Now fully-focused and back in the gym, Heron is set to enjoy a third pro outing on Black Country Boxing's 'Summer Scorcher' – sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall – at Walsall Town Hall on July 9.

"After my second fight, looking back, I should have been straight back in the gym," he said. "That wasn't the case and then it was soon Christmas and in the New Year I started a new job. It was shift work so I struggled to get in the gym and, if I'm honest, just putting it off."

"The days roll into weeks and the weeks roll into months; I was my own worst enemy. I put a bit of weight on but then realised this is what I want to do. It's a lesson learnt now though and I'm ready to kick on."

Also on the bill are Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, Jordan Clayton, Craig Morris, Rob Hunt and Tipton super featherweight Lee Glover, alongside James 'The Full Monty' Montgomery and West Bromwich fighters middleweight Tom Stokes and super featherweight Jack Summers.

Tickets are £30 or and £60 VIP ring-side and can be bought on 0845 111 2900 or directly from any boxer on the bill.

Cradley prevail to move back into league's top four

CRADLEY moved back into the National League top four, prevailing 50-38 over Eastbourne at Monmore Green.

There were superb performances from top two Ashley Morris and Max Clegg, although lower order strength made a difference.

After falling behind early on, Heathers were given a lifeline when GB international Adam Ellis fell when leading heat five – and the Heathers duly capitalised to strike successive 5-1s.

They remained ahead with skipper Clegg brilliantly seeing off Ellis in heat 11. The Eagles lost Jake Knight and Charley Powell to injuries after crashes, and were effectively reduced to just five riders.

Morris and Clegg both rounded off impressive performances by seeing off Ellis for a 5-1 in heat 13 before Clegg brilliantly won the final race. Ben Basford scored some vital points before walking away from a crash in his final ride.

Cradley 50; Max Clegg 12, Ashley Morris 10+1, Luke Chesser 9+1, Bradley Andrews 8+1, Richard Andrews 6+1, Ben Basford 4+3, Lainy Cupitt 1+1.

Eastbourne 38; Ellis Perks 12, Georgie Wood 8+2,

Adam Ellis 7+1, Luke Harris 6, Charley Powell 4, Jake Knight 0, Stephen Whitehouse 1+1, Gary Cotham R/R.

Jack leads the Halesowen charge



Halesowen Cycling Academy members ride out

HALESOWEN Cycling Academy scored their biggest result of the season with an outstanding team performance in the 65-mile Climb On Bikes road race.

Jack Stanton-Warren led the way as he claimed victory on the rolling course near Leominster.

Tom Swinler made it a one-two by racing home in second with Charles Walker taking fourth, strengthening Halesowen's challenge in the West Midlands road race league.

The one-two capped a team performance of strength in depth, with Joe Hobbs figuring in an early move and Patrick Fotheringham driving the

Cycling

peloton hard before Swinler and Stanton-Warren made their move when the racing intensified on the third of four 17-mile laps.

It was Stanton-Warren who sprang away first with about 10 miles remaining, joined by Swinler, with Walker closing down any attempts from within the peloton to mount a chase.

By the time the race reached the finish near the village of Woobly, the Halesowen duo had a minute's lead, with Swinler conceding victory to Stanton-Warren on the line.

Win gives side more optimism

HALESOWEN skipper Richard Brooker has praised his side for showing character in their big win over league leaders Tamworth.

Brooker said his side now approached the second half of the season with renewed optimism as they travel to Old Elizabethans this Saturday (midday).

He said: "We now lie fifth with three games to go to the halfway stage and we know we are a second-half of the season team so it augurs well."

Halesowen then stuck to see off tight bowling from the table-toppers with Kester Moseley (39*) and Wes Griffiths (23*) seeing the side home to win by six-wickets.

While the second team were once again abandoned for the fourth time this season, the thirds and fourths managed to dodge the showers.

At Kidderminster the third team tried to chase down a mammoth 343-5 and nearly succeeded ending on 332-7 just 12 runs short.

Notable performances came from 14-year-old Hayden Evans, who hit 95, Luke Miley (71) and Scott Jones (40*).

Meanwhile the fourth team continued at the top of the league with a comprehensive victory over Ross-on-Wye. Battling first Halesowen clocked up 184-8 with Archie Reeves (52) and Raqeeb Khan (35) being the mainstays. In reply Ross struggled to 129 all out.

On Saturday, the 2nd XI are at home to Wolverhampton (12,30), the thirds at home to Oldswinford (1pm) and fourths visit Oldswinford (1pm).

Whiley eyes double Paralympics gold

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley wants to bring back two gold medals from the Paralympic Games in Rio.

The wheelchair tennis player claimed a bronze medallist at London 2012 and since the beginning of 2014 has gone on to lift eight Grand Slam titles.

Seven of those – including a calendar clean sweep with Japanese partner Yui Kamiji in 2014 – have come on the doubles court. Whiley also lifted the US Open women's singles title last year. She will partner Lucy Shuker in Rio.

"I will be looking to bring home two gold medals," she said. "I've been working so hard for the last four years."



Teams line up the Respect round robin tournament hosted by Lye Town

Swimmers take second in latest gala

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Cheslyn Hay for the second round of the Mercian Summer League and claimed second place behind Redditch.

Double event winner was Emma Osborne in the Open 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke.

Other individual event winners were Max Rollason in the

Open 4x1 individual medley, James Quiney in the Open 100m butterfly, Rachael Hunt in the Open 100m backstroke, Anthony Demitry in the 10 years and under 25m butterfly and Owen Crump in the 14 years and under 100m breaststroke.

The boys relay team put in strong performances. Both the Open age team and the 12 years

and under team won both of their freestyle and medley relays. The two teams included Zach Rollason, George Davies, Oliver Bradley-Wood, Adam Ryan, Dermot Cameron and Gregory Sheppard.

The girls open 4x1 freestyle relay team were successful and included Julie Evertton and Natasha Bird.

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